SANDWELL
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AN EDITION OF THE SANDWELL AND GREAT BARR CHRONICLE

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Vela does it again! Super-sub gains a point for Albion – see page 60

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This will update every Saturday

Co-ordinator Carol Wilson, front, and members of the community promote the charity fashion show to mark International Women's Day in Tividale

Fashion show bid to boost cancer charity

THE community in Tividale will be raising money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer with a fashion show to mark International Women's Day.

Staff working for Sandwell Council's Tividale Extended Services Team – who work with schools to help families to access local services – are helping parents from Burnt Tree Primary School and young models from the Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy to stage the event on Tuesday, March 8.

Sandwell's Mayor Councillor Pauline Hinton will open the event, which is being supported by the Burnt Tree Community Cohesion Group. The evening will also include information stands with representatives from a range of organisations.

Pampering

There will also be free health checks and pampering sessions at the evening from 6.30 to 8.30pm at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy in Lower City Road. Entry is free and all money donated will go to Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Carol Wilson, Tividale Extended Services co-ordinator, said: "This is the first event we have held for International Women's Day and want to raise as much money as we can and inform the community on what services are available locally."

For more information call Carol on (0121) 552 5501 extension five.

Robbers hit shop worker

ROBBERS attacked a shop assistant with an iron bar before grabbing cigarettes in a raid on a Tividale store last week.

A gang of three struck at the Co-op in Dudley Road West at 8.15pm last Wednesday. The cashier suffered head and face injuries.

West Midlands Police spokesman Catherine Hickman said: "The offenders hit a 26-year-old male assistant with a metal bar."

The robbers escaped in a silver car in the direction of Oldbury.

Council is losing a potential £1 million in rent

400 EMPTY HOMES IN BOROUGH

EMPTY council homes in Sandwell are losing the authority more than £1 million a year.

The authority currently has more than 400 empty homes – despite having a waiting list of 8,887.

Properties currently standing vacant include 231 flats, 142 houses, 21 bungalows, and 13 maisonettes.

By leaving the homes empty, the council, which is currently battling to save £75 million over the next four years, has lost out on a total of £1,215,830 since April last year.

Sandwell Homes said the homes represent one per cent of the total number of properties managed on behalf of Sandwell Council.

It added that rent loss represents 1.4 per cent of the rent due. The number is up on last year when the number of unoccupied homes was 386.

Bosses said that work to improve properties under the Decent Homes Programme was to blame for the delays in renting the homes.

The scheme includes plans for major refurbishment work to all empty homes.

Councillor Mary Docker, deputy leader of Sandwell's opposition Conservative group, said that the council needs to prioritise

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plans in order to bring the homes back into use. She said: "I am aware that there have been homes left vacant as they are in no fit state to be rented back out, which I think brings into question the maintenance programme over the last few years.

"The number of homes lying empty is a real concern, particularly given the number of people currently on the waiting list.

"This is something the council needs to prioritise. This is a source of income that the council vitally needs."

Manage

Adrian Scarrott, director of housing services for Sandwell Homes, said the organisation is performing well compared with other authorities. He said: "We currently manage in excess of 29,000 homes, and vacancy levels are way below the average for typical metropolitan boroughs.

"In comparison to other similar organisations, Sandwell Homes ranks as one of the top performers in relation to "rent loss" due to empty homes, as a percentage of rent due.

"Sandwell Homes also continually achieves well above average results in regard to the time taken to re-let empty dwellings."

Demand for council housing in the Black Country is far outweighing the number of homes available, with tens of thousands of people on waiting lists.

Meanwhile, Sandwell Council is also expecting to lose out by more than £3 million as fewer council tenants buy their home.

Bosses are expecting council house sales receipts to drop from £5m to £4m this year.

Returns on sales from 2011/12 to 2014/15 are also expected to dip by 20 per cent, from £10m to £8m.

Councillor Steve Eling, the borough's finance chief, said it was unrealistic to expect the same number of sales since the recession He explained: "There is a general trend across the country because of the economic climate that fewer people are buying their council homes. It could be to do with people being unable to get mortgages.

"Current economic factors have meant that there are less people buying their home so there is no point us budgeting on the assumption we will receive more and find out later we don't get what we expect."

The authority is entitled to use 25 per cent of its receipts from council house sales. The council is still expecting to make £5m in 2010/11 on general property sales.

Targets on selling premises for the next four years have also been retained at £7m for years 2011/12 to 2014/15.

Cllr Eling added: "If things were to change and more tenants start buying council homes we can revise our estimates."

The value of pockets of authority land has also dropped significantly since the credit crunch began.

Major plans for restoring historic park

AN HISTORIC Bearwood park that was the subject of a bitter wrangle between Sandwell and Birmingham council chiefs is set to be given a multi-million pound revamp.

Sandwell Council will apply for £255,322 of lottery funding to refurbish the Grade II-listed Lightwoods House, which is 220 years old, and restore Lightwoods Park, which is beside the Hagley Road.

The authority will provide funding of £53,800 and a project manager post will be created to oversee the work, if the bid is approved.

The application is the first phase of grander plans to bid for £3.2m lottery funding to overhaul the park.

If approved, the funding will cover the refit of Lightwoods House and work to pathways, benches and fences at the park.

The bandstand would be refurbished and the Shakespeare Garden improved, under the plans.

Sandwell finance chief and an Abbey ward councillor, Steve Eling said: "This is the first phase. You ask for a small amount at first and then ask for the full amount. That's how lottery funding works.

"We will be applying for £3.2m in total. The money will cover the restoration of the house and major improvements to the remainder of the park."

Enthusiasm

Work would help bring benefits of the park to residents and make the most of the potential for Lightwoods House, Councillor Eling added.

He said: "The house is Grade-II listed and has lots of potential because it's so large. It could be used as a wedding venue, rooms could be let out, and used for services. A children's centre could even go in there.

"I'm really looking forward to cracking on with this. There's been a lot of interest and I knew the people of Bearwood would have a high level of enthusiasm for this."

Contractors Bendcrete are currently carrying out £84,928 worth of work upgrading the skate park at the park, which was labelled a "death trap" by campaigners after falling into disrepair, after first being built as part of a TV series.

The park is also set to get seven new dog litter bins and the tennis courts will be resurfaced, divided into multi-games area and tennis course with a steel net.

The council is tendering for companies to carry out repairs to the damaged roof and windows at the house. The work signals the beginning of the revamp at the park which has recently come back under the control of Sandwell Council after years of being run by Birmingham City Council.

Race against time for parade

ORGANISERS of the Black Country's biggest St George's Day parade have warned that it risks being cancelled.

This year's event through West Bromwich is due to be held on April 24 but so far, less than half of the £10,000 needed to fund it has been raised. The organisers, Stone Cross St George Association, has now issued an urgent appeal to residents.

The parade has become one of Sandwell's most popular events and last year attracted more than 20,000 people.

However, Sandwell Council no longer contribute financially to externally organised community parades. This means that the St George's Day parade has to be totally self-funded.

Organisers now say they need to raise the funds within the next five weeks in order to secure the march, and are hoping residents will dig deep in their pockets.

Mark Cowles, of the association, said: "We are worried. W are going to be struggling this year. We need to have raised the money by the middle of April because we need to pay for the stewards and the road closures and the public liability insurance, and then there is the bands and the stage."

Mr Cowles added: "It is something that our area can be proud of. The people started this –it is what the people want, and they have proved that by their fantastic attendance but they need to support it. We are supporting our own parade and financing our own parade – if we don't, we could lose it."

Donations have already been made by a number of organisations including £2,000 from English heritage group the Steadfast Trust and a number of borough businesses including Webbs funeral directors, RJ Mechanical Installations, Tabernash and SLD Transport.

On Saturday a fundraising event was held at the Stone Cross pub in Walsall Road.

It is not the first time that the plans for the parade in West Bromwich to mark England's patriotic day have been under threat.

Contact organisers via email at stgeorgeparade @aol.com.

Shot fired at pub

POLICE are investigating after a shot was fired at a Tipton pub while police and members of staff were inside.

It happened at The Harrier pub in Powis Avenue at 4.24am on Saturday, with the single shot smashing through a window and hitting a bottle of vodka.

Police and members of staff were in The Harrier taking statements about an alleged brawl which had taken place hours earlier, at 1am, in which a 21-year-old man received a wound to his neck and was rushed to hospital.

Roy Cross, of Powis Avenue, appeared at Warley Magistrates Court charged with wounding. The 27-year-old will appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on May 23. He was granted conditional bail.

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Chaplin 'from a Smethwick gipsy family'

Black Patch? Comic Charlie Chaplin

SILVER screen legend Charlie Chaplin may have been born into a gipsy family in Smethwick.

A letter written to the 20th century comedy genius claims he was born on the "Black Patch" in Smethwick, rather than, as widely believed, in London.

Jack Hill wrote from Tamworth in the 1970s to inform Chaplin he entered the world in a caravan that belonged to the "Gypsy Queen".

It says the "caravan belonged to the Gypsy Queen, who was my auntie. You were born on the Black Patch in Smethwick near Birmingham."

The Black Patch was a thriving Romany community based on the industrial edge of Birmingham in the 1880s. Chaplin's birth certificate has never been located but until now it was thought he was born in London in 1889.

His mother Hannah, whose maiden name is Hill, was descended from a travelling family.

Letter

The letter was found in the locked drawer of a bureau which was inherited by Chaplin's daughter, Victoria, after Charlie's widow Oona died in 1991.

It is one of a number of documents about the comic being kept in a bomb-proof concrete vault in Montreux, Switzerland, the country where his relatives now live.

Other documents include reel-to-reel recordings of Chaplin improvising at the piano. There are also press cuttings which detail the British Army's banning of the Chaplin moustache from the trenches during the First World War.

Chaplin is one of the greatest figures of the 20th century, famous for his signature character, the Little Tramp.

The survivor of a tough workhouse childhood, he became one of the best-known film stars in the silent movie era.

Chaplin's oldest surviving son Michael has said that the idea of Chaplin being a gipsy born in Smethwick does not bother him.

He said the letter must have been significant for Chaplin to have kept it.

There are plans to turn the Chaplin family home in Montreux into a museum.

14,000 of borough's children are living in severe poverty

SHOCKING new statistics have revealed that 14,000 children in Sandwell are living in severe poverty.

Now, Save the Children, which has provided the figures, is calling on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to draw up an emergency plan to tackle the issue of child poverty as efficiently as possible.

Their research has shown that 1.6 million children are living in the deepest poverty across the UK and Sandwell is one of the hardest hit areas – one in five of the borough's chldren live in poverty.

With increasing unemployment and cuts in welfare payments, Save the Children is fearful that even more children will be forced into poverty over the coming months, unless urgent action is taken.

Sally Copley, Save the Children's head of UK policy, said: "Children up and down the country are going to sleep at night in homes with no heating, without eating a proper meal and without proper school uniforms to put on in the morning.

"No child should be born without a chance. It is a national scandal that so many children are growing up in severe poverty. If the Government is to fulfil its commitments on child poverty, it must find a way of counting these children in greatest need.

Hidden

"These children are hidden from official view and their plight is unrecognised. If they are to have a future, we must acknowledge their desperate need and urgently target Government help towards them."

At the next budget the charity hopes that Chancellor George Osborne, will implement an emergency plan to channel new jobs into the poorest areas while increasing financial support for low-income families.

Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council, said: "Sadly, I am not surprised by this research and given the austerity measures being placed on Sandwell it is difficult to see things getting better. "The council can only do so much with partner agencies. When you take £75million out of our budget, this can only make things worse.

"We do all we can to protect vulnerable children and we would like to do much more. We would support this campaign by Save the Children and urge George Osborne to listen to the impact that his financial strategy is having on people up and down the country."

The Government has no official way of determining how many children are caught in poverty or how to estimate the impact of their policies on this vulnerable group. Save the Children wants to see them adopt its pioneering measurement which combines both income and material deprivation.

Pictured in front of a Thinktank night dome is Year 1 teacher Charlotte Fay with pupils, from left, Grace Young, Tom Hardman, Lucy Young with Edsan Neblett at the front

Learning science is fun for Warley pupils

YOUNGSTERS at a Sandwell school took a scientific approach to their work with a special week of activities.

Warley Infant and Nursery School organised a Science Week, designed to get pupils more interested in the subject with fun experiments.

As part of the week children from nearby Bleakhouse Junior School came in to teach lessons, while a florist and scientists from Birmingham's Thinktank also visited.

The Thinktank scientists brought a night dome with them which showed images of the night sky and planets.

Year 2 pupils went to Oldbury College of Sport to experiment with ink and a science fancy dress day was held to raise money for another science project later this year. To finish off the week a live link was held with pupils at the namesake Warley Primary in Essex to discuss a test both schools had taken part in.

Charlotte Fay, a Year 1 teacher who organised the science week at the Bleakhouse Road school, said she was pleased with how the week had gone. "We had a really positive response from parents, staff and children and I'd like to thank them all for being so enthusiastic and supportive. We're trying to make science fun and relate it to real life. "Hopefully it will inspire children to be excited about finding out things for themselves."

Warley pupil Kyle Flynn, aged seven, said: "It's been a brilliant week in school and the night dome was fantastic."

Schools pay more due to slashed subsidies

SCHOOLS in Sandwell have been dealt a double blow as the council increases fees and cuts subsidies for trips to residential centres.

The council says increased fees will not be passed on to parents directly. But they will force schools to use Government funding in place of cash from the authority.

Council subsidies of £60 a week to cover half the fees for visits by those students who qualify for free school meals – more than a quarter of pupils – will be scrapped completely.

The authority has increased fees for visits to Ingestre Hall, a Jacobean mansion near Stafford, Edgmond Hall in rural Shropshire, the Frank Chapman Centre in the Wyre Forest, and to Plas Gwynant in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park.

Charges will increase from £120 to £132 a week for schools to send state school pupils to the centres on courses. Pupils have used the centres for more than 50 years.

The changes will take effect from September 2011.

Councillor Ray Nock, leader of the borough's Conservative group, said changes will leave schools having to use Pupil Premium funding, given by the Government for books and equipment, to pay for visits.

Centres

Cllr Nock said: "Our schools should get every penny of the £4 million Pupil Premium. The council has always funded assisted places for residential education, and for that to fund a 14 per cent increase in income at the residential centres is appalling."

Fees for the authority's four residential centres for people from outside the borough will also increase.

Charges at Ingestre Hall will rise 22 per cent from £180 to £220 for trips from Monday to Friday. Plas Gwynant will go up to £240 from £200, and Edgmond Hall and Frank Chapman Centre will increase from £180 to £210.

A report to Councillor Bob Badham, the borough's children and families chief, said changes will generate £1.2m this year and safeguard 59 jobs at the centres.

Cllr Badham said fee hikes would keep centres open during challenging financial times, adding: "Many other authorities are closing down their centres. We want to continue to offer these trips despite challenging financial times. It's the Government making these cuts, and we're left to pick up the pieces."

Marathon runner 'Blind Dave' Heeley in preparation for his latest challenge

Lecturer joins 'Blind Dave' on thousand mile challenge

A LECTURER from Sandwell College is set to go the distance with record-breaking marathon runner 'Blind Dave' Heeley when he joins him on his Top2Toe challenge this summer.

Travel and public services course team leader Dave Long will be a guide runner for Mr Heeley when he runs and rides from John O'Groats to Land's End in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support in August.

Mr Long, aged 26, from Great Barr, has been running with Dave for nearly two years after being introduced at West Bromwich Harriers athletics club, of which college head of department Jim Stott is also chairman.

Despite suffering a stress fracture around Christmas, Mr Long has fought back from injury to continue his training schedule, pounding the pavements twice a week near the college's High Street campus.

Blind Dave will have three running guides alongside him on the challenge including Mr Long, Karl Moore of West Bromwich Harriers, and 'Mad Mac' Carr, who accompanied him on his last record-breaking run.

Sharing

All three are currently sharing the bulk of the practice runs by alternating shifts.

Mr Long runs with Mr Heeley on Thursdays and Fridays, normally covering the same route, which passes through Dartmouth Park and then Sandwell Valley, Newton Road and All Saints Way.

They they go past Sandwell Hospital before arriving back at the West Bromwich High Street campus.

He said: "We're rotating the training at the moment. We haven't decided who's doing which legs of the run yet though.

"I'm just coming back from my injury, so it will depend on my fitness level nearer the time as to how many I do."

Long-distance runner Blind Dave is famous for completing seven marathons on seven continents in seven days.

The 52-year-old aims to travel 1,000 miles in 10 days, and hopes to raise £100,000 in sponsorship money.

Each day will start with a marathon distance run of 26.2 miles before a 75-mile bike ride to his next destination.

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Fine for fake cop

A PRETEND policeman from Tipton who fit blue lights to his car and pulled over motorists, after being turned down for a job as a special constable, has been sentenced to community service and fined £100.

Daniel Bunce admitted impersonating a police constable. He was sentenced to 12 months community service, fined and banned from driving for six weeks at Warley Magistrates Court.

Daniel Bunce

The court was told how 20-year-old Bunce fitted blue flashing lights to his grey Ford Focus after his bid to join the police was turned down. He used the lights to skip traffic jams and pull people over so he could tick them off for bad driving.

Sentencing him last week, presiding magistrate Rita Holloway said: "It's a serious issue to be impersonating a police officer to any extent.

"Other people in the road could have felt intimidated."

The court heard the defendant, of Beech Crescent, put blue lights under the grills of his car between February and March last year.

Prosecutor Kully Khaira said he used the lights on several occasions to make other cars get out of the way.

He said on more than one occasion Bunce also pulled people over to talk to them about the manner of their driving.

Gerard Brady, defending, said his client was a young man who had been immature adding: "Temptation got the better of him."

Driver admits charge over infant's death

THE driver of a speeding sports car involved in a hit-and-run crash which killed a two-month-old baby has admitted causing death by careless driving.

Kabir Khan was driving a Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution which crashed into a Toyota Corolla in Grove Lane, Smethwick, last November.

Two-month-old Mohammed Isa, one of the passengers in the Toyota, was killed in the collision.

Khan, aged 31, of Waterloo Road, Oldbury, pleaded guilty to causing death by careless driving when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court. He also admitted driving while disqualified, failing to stop, failing to report an accident and driving with no insurance. Last week the court heard he was driving at 58mph in a 40mph zone before the crash.

Mohammed, who was thrown from the Toyota, was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital but later pronounced dead. Other people in the Corolla, including Mohammed's parents, were injured.

The Mitsubishi sped off after the crash on November 27.

Witnesses said they heard the Mitsubishi "roaring" down the dual carriageway minutes before the crash.

Khan was remanded in custody and will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 25.

Gunman Dean Issit

Fleeing gunman in rail track drama

A FUGITIVE gunman smashed his car through a Sandwell level crossing as he sped away from pursuing police.

Dean Isitt ploughed through the barriers at Langley Green in a Honda Civic at an estimated 40mph in his bid to evade capture.

The 31-year-old robber was wanted by police after pointing a sawn-off shotgun at a member of the public and threatening to kill him. Isitt, who is now serving nine years for firearms offences, had threated to shoot a factory manager in West Bromwich who came across the robber whilst he was escaping on foot from police.

Shot

Isitt evaded capture on that occasion but less than four weeks later was spotted getting into the Civic and then pursued by police. Isitt, of Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis, was arrested on April 28 by police who shot his tyres out at Great Bridge.

The dramatic footage of the level crossing incident has been released by Network Rail.

But it has emerged that a dangerous driving case against Isitt was dropped due to lack of evidence and the fact he was unlikely to serve any extra jail time even if convicted of that offence.

Crown Prosecution Service spokesman Vinny Bolina said: "We have to be satisfied that there is sufficient admissible evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction.

Giant wind turbine bid at beauty spot

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A GIANT wind turbine could be constructed in the middle of a Sandwell Valley by cash-strapped Sandwell Ccouncil.

Sandwell Council claims the 200-foot high structure could provide electricity to 20,000 homes in blustery conditions.

The council is considering installing the turbine – a hi-tech windmill – in Sandwell Valley near Swan Pool.

Bosses say it would be screened by dense foliage and high trees, while noise would be drowned out by the nearby M5.

Council deputy leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "The wind turbine is likely to cost between £2.6 million and £3 million depending on the size. It would pay for itself between six to eight years.

"Depending on the size selected, it could supply anything between 1,000 and 1,500 homes."

The plans have been criticised as not being value for money by the council's Conservative group leader Councillor Ray Nock. He said he is not convinced the scheme is value for money and has concerns about the effectiveness of the turbine.

He said: "Once again Sandwell appear to be going for a rather grand idea without fully looking at the cost benefits and the user benefits and, again, the taxpayer will be funding this investment."

The site is apparently the only site suitable in the borough, which has sufficient wind flow and does not affect flight paths to Birmingham International Airport or overhead power lines.

The possibility of erecting a turbine in the borough to reduce carbon emissions and cut energy costs was first mooted in 2007.

Members of the council's cabinet revealed at a meeting last week that they were keen on the scheme when the economic climate improves.

The borough's finance boss Cllr Eling said: "The turbine would feed into the electricity grid and we could draw on that at no extra cost.

"There would be a cost to put it up, but it would produce a very significant level of saving for us."

Hills

Another site which was considered for a potential turbine was Rowley Hills which offers some of the highest viewpoints in the Black Country, but the hills were not deemed suitable.

The scheme is one of a number of "spend to save" initiatives put on hold by the council as it battles to claw back £75 million in the next four years.

The borough already has one publicly-owned turbine – a 33ft Air Dolphin turbine at a location off Taylors Lane, Oldbury, near the civic amenities site in Shidas Lane.

Through monitoring the performance of the turbine it was hoped the council would be able to find out how practical it would be to harness wind power on a large scale in the borough.

However, despite being in use since January 2009, no data is yet available.

Leisure centre 'piazza' plan dropped to boost security

KEY features of Tipton's proposed multi-million pound swimming and leisure centre are to be changed to improve security and safety.

A continental-style 'piazza' square and one car park entrance will be dropped under new plans.

Sandwell Council wants to amend and remove some of the conditions given when the scheme was approved last year. The document states: "The internal layout of the proposed swimming centre at Alexandra Road has been amended following discussions with Sandwell Leisure Trust... to ensure the building functions efficiently as a swimming centre and addresses security and health and safety issues raised by Sandwell Leisure Trust."

The trust will manage the centre. Elements dropped include the piazza to the north of the building. It now planned to have a single entrance for the car park, instead of two entrances. "The secondary entrance to the building has been removed as it was considered the security and efficient operation of the building could not be maintained." A fitness suite set to overlook the junction of Alexandra Road and Upper Church Lane will be moved to the rear of the building to overlook green space.

Funky fun at dance school

Marie Acton, aged 24, with youngsters at Funky Fusion School of Dance

A NEW dance school has started in Wednesbury offering youngsters the latest funky freestyle moves.

Marie Acton, aged 24, of Sheldon Road, West Bromwich, is launched-her Funky Fusion School of Dance on Saturday.

Hip-hop

The nightclub entertainer, who also works as an office administrator, plans to teach styles including musical theatre, hip-hop, street dance and freestyle.

Classes take place at Wood Green High School, in Wood Green Road, on Saturdays. The former pupil of the Carol Bennett School Of Performing Arts in Walsall said: "I used to do shows like Fame at Wolverhampton University and have taken part in competitions across the UK. I've always wanted to start my own dance classes."

Sessions for children aged three to seven take place from 10am to 11am. Classes for eight to 10s from 11am to 12.15pm and for older children 12.15 to 2pm. Call 07854 903216.

Baby killer jailed

Danny Warr

Baby Jayden

A FATHER from West Bromwich has been jailed for four-and-a-half years for shaking his four-month-old son to death.

Danny Warr, aged 26, of Bromford Lane, West Bromwich, shook the child so hard it caused "catastrophic and unsurvivable" brain injuries, a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Warr was found guilty of baby Jayden's manslaughter last month. The court heard Warr's former girlfriend, Rebecca Lloyd, woke Warr at their home in Bromford Lane in June 2009 to get him to look after the child. But instead of helping the baby go back to sleep, Miss Lloyd claimed he rocked Jayden in his basket with force before dropping the basket and baby.

Brain

Jayden was rushed to Sandwell General Hospital where he was put on a life support machine before being moved to intensive care at Alder Hay Hospital in Liverpool. He died six days later on June 24.

The youngster suffered bleeding around the brain and eyes and extensive brain injury due to lack of oxygen.

Mr Andrew Fisher, defending, said: "It would appear that on the evening in question the defendant lost his temper momentarily."

High Court judge, The Honorable Mr Justice Foskett, said he accepted that the attack was "out of character" even though Warr had shown "no particular remorse".

He added: "All the evidence suggests you were a good and caring father, you simply lost your cool on this occasion."

Park fountain replica ready

A £60,000 drinking fountain being created at West Bromwich's Dartmouth Park will be unveiled on March 17.

The sandstone fountain is a replica of one donated by the fifth Earl of Dartmouth when the park opened in 1878 but which disappeared decades ago. The replica has been created as part of the £6.3 million restoration of the Victorian Park.

Specialist conservation contractors have been brought in to complete the construction of the fountain, which will mark the end of work on the Main Avenue park.

It will carry the original inscription.

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Fashion fixation at One Stop

SHOPPERS are being given the chance to bag themselves a place on the catwalk at Perry Barr's fashion weekend.

One Stop Shopping Centre, on Walsall Road, will host the FashionFIX event on Friday March 18, between 11am until 5pm, and on Saturday, March 19, from 10am to 4pm. Top London stylists will be on hand talking through how to dress for your body shape and how to put key looks together for this season. Demonstrations and fashion courses will be showcased throughout the day, on the main stage, in the mall, and spring summer trends will be covered in an interactive catwalk.

One Stop has also launched a campaign to recruit a 'real shopper' to take part in the event. The winner will win an outfit courtesy of the shows stylists, before modelling their new look at the event. Shoppers are encouraged to visit the centre's Facebook fan page and post a picture of themselves to be in with a chance of winning.

Bashir Dalvi, centre manager, said: "We are very pleased to be hosting the first fashion event at the centre. There is a lot of excitement building and we encourage those who have an interest in fashion to attend this informative and fun event."

Visit www.onestop-shopping.co.uk.

Work starts on weir

THE Environment Agency has started work on Perry Hall Playing Fields in Perry Barr as part of a strategy to reduce the risk of the River Tame flooding.

The work involves removing material from the inflow weir to the flood storage area. The weir is located just upstream of the concrete bridge.

The crest of the weir will be lowered and then reinstated with a grassed bank and concrete path. The spillway which diverts flood water will then operate at lower levels. Environment Agency spokesman John Outram said: "The water stored in Perry Hall Playing Fields will reduce flood risk to people and property downstream and provide the Witton and Perry Barr with an increased standard of protection'.

The project will cost £136,000. Concrete excavated from the weir will be crushed and used to fill potholes in a nearby car park. The works will be completed by the end of March.

Warley court convictions

RECENT convictions at Warley Magistrates' Court included:

Adris Mohammed, aged 21, of Algernon Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham: Fined £250 with £35 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and disqualified from driving for 12 months for driving a Vauxhall Tigra on Corbett Street without a licence or insurance, driving the vehicle on Suffrage Street without due care and attention, being involved in an accident on Suffrage Street whereby personal injury was caused to another person failing to stop and provide name and address details as required or report the accident to the police as soon as was reasonably practicable or within 24 hours, and for failing without reasonable excuse to surrender to custody at Warley Magistrates' Court having been released on bail.

Anthony Daniel Wood, aged 18, of Grange Road, West Bromwich: Fined £65 with £20 costs, ordered to pay £25 compensation and £15 victim surcharge for assaulting a police constable in the execution of his duty and for having used threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress thereby.

Wayne Anthony Thomas Nock, aged 33, of Crankhall Lane, Friar Park, Wednesbury: Fined £100 with £85 costs, ordered to pay £88.98 compensation and £15 victim surcharge for causing damage to items of clothing to the value of £88.98.

Carla Louise Kimberley Ankiah, aged 22, of Hampton Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton: Fined £175 with £60 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed three points on licence for driving a Ford Horsebox on the M5 while using a hand-held mobile phone.

Brian Thomas Bridges, aged 63, of Ludstone Road, Weoley Castle, Birmingham: Fined £175 with £60 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed three points on licence for driving a Nissan Almera on A34 Birmingham Road whilst exceeding the speed limit.

Floyd Washington Fraser (alias: Floyd Fraser), aged 47, of Blanford Road, Quinton, Birmingham: Given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £85 costs for causing assault by beating.

Mohammed Tamim Bashardoost (alias: Mohammed Bashardoost), aged 38, of Walter Road, Warley, Smethwick: Fined £135 with £60 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed six points on licence for driving a BMW on St Pauls Road without a licence or insurance and for driving the vehicle while using a hand-held mobile phone.

Postman avoids a jail term

A POSTMAN from West Bromwich caught opening mail to steal cash has been spared jail.

Glen Miller, a trusted worker for 23 years, was caught after post office bosses planted brightly-coloured dummy envelopes to dupe him.

They had been tipped off after a member of staff spotted him removing a greeting card from a box not related to his round.

Bosses gave Miller, aged 44, of Scafell Way, four test packages in September. He was seen opening one of them and three others were also found to have been opened.

Guilty

Miller pleaded guilty to opening 18 packages between March and September last year.

He said he had taken £40 in total and pleaded guilty to a separate charge of theft.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said his client was suffering significant financial problems due to the breakup of his marriage.

Miller was given a four-month prison sentence suspended for two years at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week after admitting opening mail and stealing the cash.

He was also ordered to do 200 hours unpaid work.

Police chief is forced to retire at age of 48

sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

THE head of Sandwell Police will have to retire after 30 years' service under cost-saving moves, despite being only 48 years old.

Chief Superintendent Steve Dugmore is being retired next month as part of a cull of 300 senior officers by West Midlands Police Authority using regulation A19, to force officers into retirement after 30 years.

The decision has been labelled "mindless" and a waste of expertise.

Ch Supt Dugmore – retiring at 48

Borough council leader Darren Cooper said: "This is a shocking decision. It does not take into account the excellent links Mr Dugmore has made in the borough and the success he has had. With all that service behind him it makes no sense at all."

Chief Superintendent Dugmore took on the role in April last year, when 21 operational command units within West Midlands Police were replaced by 10 local policing units under Programme Paragon. He was promoted from his previous role as head of North Sandwell operational command unit.

Under his stewardship, crime figures dropped in the last year in the borough with 2,742 fewer victims of recorded crime compared to 2009.

Experience

Councillor Ian Jones, the borough's regeneration boss, added: "There is a whole raft of experience being lost in West Midlands Police under these cuts. It's mindless.

Hundreds of officers in the West Midlands with more than 30 years of experience will be forced to retire as part of a bid to save £120 million. The force will lose 175 officers when the scheme takes effect in March.

It says a total of 649 will leave over the next four years. The scheme, which will apply to all ranks, was first floated in August. The force has 8,500 officers at present.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Zoe Lee said: "The implementation of this regulation which requires officers to retire has been a difficult decision.

"However, the current financial position requires us to take this step."

Poet reopens charity shop

Poet Brendan Hawthorne opens the Age UK Charity shop with, back from left, Jean Bouker, Ivy Allen, Mary Peace, Chris Doyle and Sue Waring

A CHARITY shop has reopened in Wednesbury after being given a £10,000 revamp.

Age UK in Union Street has been transformed using brightly coloured shelving to modernise its appearance and increase appeal to shoppers.

A reopening ceremony was held at the store to mark the transformation and Wednesbury poet Brendan Hawthorne read a poem called Setting Sale to mark the occasion.

Age UK area sales manager David Elvidge said: "We are trying to make the store totally different by putting in multi-coloured pods throughout the shop. It looks very different from what you would find in other shops and so far feedback has been brilliant."

He added that other concept stores have seen increases in sales of 20 per cent and that he hoped to see a similar rise in sales at the Wednesbury store in the coming months.

Over the next two or three years all of Age UK's remaining 470 stores will also be made over into 'concept' stores.

The charity was formed when Age Concern and Help the Aged merged in 2009.

Designs on a right royal prize

SCHOOLS are being urged to get involved with a right royal competition from Crown Carveries, giving pupils the chance to design their own commemorative plate for the royal wedding .

The Malt Shovel at Great Barr, which is part of the regal chain, has launched the art competition to mark the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton on April 29. Budding artists can submit a 'design through their school for the chance to win a regional prize, including a family meal at their local restaurant and a commemorative plate featuring their own design.

Regional

Eight regional winners from across the UK will then have the chance to win £500 for their school in a vote on the Crown Carveries Facebook page.

The competition is open to children aged between four and nine years old, only if they enter through their school and all entries must be received by March 14. Any school wishing to take part can email peterh@willoughby-pr.co.uk for an entry pack.

To their credit at hospitals

ASSESSORS from the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) have awarded Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust Level 2 accreditation.

This means the Trust which runs Sandwell General, City and Rowley Regis hospitals passed an intensive two-day assessment which checked that requirements were being put into practice by staff.

Fewer teen pregnancies

SANDWELL'S teenage pregnancy rate has fallen by almost a fifth in a decade, latest figures show.

The Teenage Pregnancy Unit at the Department for Education said there were 75 fewer teenage pregnancies in the borough in 2009 than there were ten years ago.

It said the rate per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17 had dropped from 69.1 to 52.7 from 1998 to 2009. In real terms, that's 75 less teenage pregnancies in 2009 than there were in 1998.

Sandwell Primary Care Trust and Sandwell Council have welcomed the provisional figures as a major achievement but cautioned there was still work to do.

Sarah New, Senior Joint Commissioning Manager for Teenage Pregnancy and Adolescent Health in Sandwell, said: "School staff, contraception services, youth and school nursing services have all contributed to these figures but it is young people themselves who we should congratulate. The majority are making the right choices and being responsible about their relationships and sexual health, including decisions about contraception. This reduction is fantastic news."

Ducks for Dusseldorf

A BOYS' football club from Sutton Coldfield are holding a duck race in Sutton Park to raise money for an exchange scheme with a German football team that's been going on for more than 40 years.

Four Oaks Boys Club first forged links with DJK Tusa 06 in Dusseldorf in 1970 and will be raising funds with their annual duck race to help host the German youngsters in April. The event is on Saturday, March 12, at 10.30am in the stream near Town Gate. Ducks cost £1 each and there are lots of prizes.

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Developers given six months more to finish care home

DEVELOPERS have been given six months to complete work on a Tipton care home which has been empty for more than six years.

If work is not "substantially completed" Sandwell Council will resume its plan to compulsorily purchase the site from the developers.

Mary Chambers House, in High Street, Princes End, became a target for vandals and thieves after work at the site stalled in June 2009.

Builders downed tools after problems with yobs and resumed six months later after security was boosted but council chiefs are not happy with the lack of progress.

Developers Alphonsus Homes have planning permission to turn the three-storey home into flats for the elderly.

Building

In August the council decided to issue a compulsory purchase order and a public inquiry was held last week in Oldbury. Nadia Sharif, counsel for the council, said: "We want to ensure that work is completed and that the building is put back into beneficial use."

An agreement was reached to adjourn the inquiry for six months so work at the site could be completed. Paul Murray of Alphonsus Homes said later: "I hope it will please the local people to know the work is going ahead."

John Lewis moving into New Street

DEPARTMENT store John Lewis is to open a £100 million store at Birmingham's New Street station.

A total of 650 jobs will be created at the store, which will form the centrepiece of the transformed station.

It will be the anchor store for the renovation of the 1960s-built Pallasades shopping centre.

John Lewis Partnership managing director Andy Street revealed the deal last week. The 250,000sq ft development is scheduled to open in 2014 and will be one of the group's largest sites outside London.

Mr Street said: "We are pleased to play our part in the regeneration of Birmingham city centre."

Probe launched into derby day chaos

SURVEILLANCE footage taken from two overcrowded trams that broke down on the way to the Black Country derby, leading to chaotic scenes, is being examined by police and transport bosses.

Up to 400 fans who crammed onto trams heading to The Hawthorns were stranded as damage to doors left the first unable to leave Black Lake station, West Bromwich.

Wolves and Albion fans were fighting for breath inside carriages of a second tram held up just outside the Metro stop ahead of the big derby game.

Chaotic scenes followed as fans walked to the ground along tram tracks and a flare was let off just outside the stop at Black Lake.

An investigation has been launched by the police.

Midland Metro bosses defended the decision to let 400 people onto two trams, saying they are built to deal with that capacity.

National Express spokesman Bryan Bannister said: "The Midlands Metro light rail transit system uses vehicles that are able to carry large numbers of standing customers.

"They are designed to operate with a standing room capacity of 208 people.

"Both ourselves and British Transport Police (BTP) will be looking at the CCTV to try to establish exactly what happened."

British Transport Police had 40 officers working on the day w with 200 officers from West Midlands Police also on duty.

BTP spokesman Brian Price said: "All the indications at the moment suggest this was not criminal damage, it is more likely to be a fault with the network caused by there being too many people on board.

"We are working with Midland Metro and investigating all the possibilities."

Herded

Transport police also defended the decision to suspend the tram network for an hour as fans were herded along the track to The Hawthorns.

Supt Mike Layton said: "This was a public safety matter. The decision to take people off the trams and walk them alongside the track to the football stadium was taken with their safety being our absolute priority."

Meanwhile officers confirmed eight arrests for fights between fans attending their first derby match in the Premier League.

Seats were ripped out and thrown after a smoke bomb was hurled from Wolves seating into Albion fans, with three people needing minor injuries treated. Two people were arrested for attempted pitch invasion, five for public order offences and one for throwing a missile towards the playing area.

West Bromwich Albion spokesman John Simpson said: "We would like to thank the vast majority of supporters inside the stadium for their good behaviour in creating a memorable derby atmosphere.

"Unfortunately, this has been overshadowed by the actions of a mindless few at the end of the game.

"The incident which has created most coverage was the throwing of a smoke bomb from the away end towards the Millennium Corner of the East Stand. Our stewards seized upon it and disposed of it pitchside."

This is how interim chief executive Jan Britton let staff at Sandwell Council know all about his recent trip to Morocco

Back behind his desk – Jan Britton

Council boss uses blog to tell staff about his exotic break in the sun

IT was a welcome break in the sun for the council chief executive from the misery of budget cuts.

But when Sandwell Council boss Jan Britton used his taxpayer- funded website to share his "amazing" winter holiday in Morocco it left a taste more bitter than the unusual delicacies he had enjoyed – including goat's testicles.

Up to 800 posts are set to be axed at Sandwell Council over the next few years as it grapples with massive budget cuts including £31m of savings it has to make in 2011/12.

Interim chief executive Jan Britton, who earns £139,000-a-year, used his Sandwell Council blog, set up to keep staff informed about council business, to talk about his exotic holiday in Marrakech.

Temperatures in Morocco have recently been approaching 80F (26.6C) – a far cry from the cold and damp winter in the West Midlands. But it wasn't all fun. Mr Britton revealed he picked up the Moroccan equivalent of "Delhi belly" when he got an upset stomach from the food.

Taxpayers

The blog costs taxpayers £4,000 a year to run on top of set up costs of £4,610 but the council says it has 2,000-4,000 'page views' per day.

In the posting Mr Britton said: "Marrakech was fantastic – a real cultural mix of Arabia, French colonialism and Africa."

He talks about the excitement of crossing the Atlas Mountains to the edge of the Sahara Desert, adding: "It was amazing!"

Mr Britton tells his staff: "We brought back lots of souvenirs – including the Moroccan equivalent of "Delhi Belly" – maybe the meal of sheep's head and goat's testicles from the Medina wasn't such a good idea after all."

The blog was addressed to Sandwell Council staff, who have been offered voluntary redundancy and face the prospect of being forced from their jobs.

Opposition Conservative leader Councillor Ray Nock said the blog added "insult to injury" to staff.

He said: "Everybody is entitled to a holiday but while Sandwell Council is making redundancies I feel it's in very bad taste that the interim chief executive uses the taxpayer funded site to talk about it."

Mr Britton responded to the criticism, saying: "The idea of the blog is to keep staff informed of council business in an informal and easy to read style.

"It enables staff to raise all sorts of matters with me and to know what the chief executive is doing. A short note about my holiday was simply an informal way of letting staff know that I was back on duty after five days away."

In a new posting on the blog he added: "Love it or loathe it, the blog has proved it's (sic) value as a fast, real-time form of two-way communication.

"This is the future. I really think the age of the desk-top PC is passing – our customers want to contact us on Facebook and Twitter using wi-fi on their iPhone or Blackberry. This time next year, I'd like Sandwell to be the council everyone else refers to as an example of how to make the best use of the new media."

Mr Britton, who has made 450 postings on the blog in the year since it was set up, says it has allowed him to answer 100 questions from employees.

It has just under 1,100 email subscribers with Mr Britton offering champagne "from my own wine cellar" for the 1,100th person to sign up.

Lollipop patrols will be protected

LOLLIPOP men and women in the Black Country will not lose their jobs despite cutbacks elsewhere, councils have pledged.

Wolverhampton's Councillor Peter Bilson said: "We are not looking to reduce the number of school crossing patrols which are operating in the city at present." Sandwell Council's Cllr Derek Rowley said Sandwell's situation was the same, as did spokespeople for Dudley and Walsall councils.

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Lawrence McGowan with the helpful team from Groundwork West Midlands

Threatened plot is saved

A WEDNESBURY allotment holder has been saved from losing his plot thanks to help from a group of young people.

Lawrence McGowan, aged 70, has had a plot at the Barlow Road allotments in Wednesbury for a year. But after part of it became overgrown the council warned him that he could lose it if it wasn't cleared up.

Now members of Groundwork West Midlands have stepped in to help clear the site.

Former journalist Mr McGowan, said: "For the next few months I am going to be physically unable to put in the work that is necessary to dig the uncultivated part.

"An organisation called Groundwork heard about my plight and sent a group to do the work. Now half of the allotment is dug and ready to plant.

"I am very grateful, it has really helped me and I owe them a big thank-you."

Terry Breen of Groundwork, said: "We are doing a programme reinstating derelict allotments for the council. We did 60 plots for people. If people are in need we are happy to help out, as we were in this case."

Fresh bid to find robbers

A FRESH appeal has been made by detectives who are searching for gun-wielding robbers who threatened workers at a Great Barr pub.

The Queslett was targeted by three masked raiders, who held staff at gunpoint and threatened them with a machete back in December. They fled with £12,000.

David Lavender, from West Midlands CID, appealed for information. "Inquiries are still ongoing and no arrests have been made," he said.

It is believed the raiders fled from the pub, in Queslett Road, in a Toyota Avensis, possibly navy blue or black, towards Aldridge.

Pub owners Mitchells & Butlers have offered a £5,000 reward for information that leads to convictions. Call 0345 113 5000 or 0800 555 111.

Pub can be demolished

BOSSES of a West Bromwich pub have been given permission to demolish it and build six new houses at the site if poor trade continues.

Sandwell Council's planning committee approved the proposed scheme for The Cottage Spring in Crookhay Lane.

Applicant Mr Multani has submitted the plans, which also include creating 15 parking spaces and a private access road. The scheme is intended as a "back-up" plan if the pub continues to struggle.

Meeting looks at homes and shops

A MEETING is being held to update residents on a £42 million Smethwick scheme.

The Brindley Village II scheme will see 193 homes, new roads, public spaces and shops created in Smethwick.

Presentation

On Tuesday, March 8, people will get the opportunity to see a presentation and update on the project from developers PxP West Midlands. Planning permission has already been secured for Brindley Village II as well as £6.5m of investment from the Homes and Communities Agency.

The 12-acre site, which includes land around Lewisham Road and Mafeking Road, is located next to the Brindley Village I development completed more than seven years ago. It forms part of the wider north Smethwick canalside redevelopment area.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for jobs and economy, Councillor Ian Jones, said: "This development provides a very real and viable masterplan for the area, bringing new life and energy to this part of Smethwick.

"Brindley Village II will bring huge benefits not only to the town but also the whole of Sandwell.

"Having consulted the public before gaining planning permission, it will be great to update them on the progress."

The public meeting is from 5pm to 7pm at the Brasshouse Lane Community Centre.

Concern over impact of a new Co-op store

TRADERS fear competition from a new Co-op store that could create 60 jobs at Hill Top.

Work to create the store on a disused former garage site are set to begin this month.

There are six shops planned for the adjacent site and existing traders are concerned that the increase in shops selling similar groceries could kill off their trade.

Some residents fear another licensed outlet could increase anti-social behaviour.

Grandmother-of-three Florence Wood, aged 64, of nearby Jowetts Lane, said: "There are too many shops selling alcohol in the area."

Father-of-three Tino Singh, owner of Bargain Booze in Hill Top, said: "The plans will be a big blow for the local shops.

"We sell everything they will sell already but they are a multi-million pound business. They will take trade away from smaller shops."

The site for development, opposite the Dovecote Arms, was once a car showroom and workshop. Sandwell Council gave the approval in October for the store with 40 parking spaces.

But Councillor Michael Middleton said he was worried the store would add to existing parking problems around Hill Top, saying: "We have already got congestion on the main road, and this will only make it worse. We have nine retail outlets selling alcohol within a mile already."

Life

The Co-op says the development will breathe new life into an otherwise derelict plot of land.

Midlands Co-operative Society spokeswoman Alison Cooper said: "We are pleased that this project is getting off the ground and hope to start work on the former motor dealership site mid-March with a view to opening in the autumn. Once complete, as well as creating around 60 new jobs, the food store will provide the local community with a wide range of products."

Convictions at Warley court

RECENT convictions at Warley Magistrates court included:

Jagdip Singh Birring, aged 36, of Crosswells Road, Oldbury: Fined £65 with £85 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and disqualified from driving for 18 months for having been required to provide a specimen or specimens for a breathalyser test in the course of an investigation into whether he had committed an offence thereof failed without reasonable excuse to do so.

David Hodson, aged 45, of St Michaels Mews, Tividale, Oldbury: Given a two year suspended sentence, ordered to have treatment for alcohol dependency, ordered to pay £85 costs and disqualified from driving for 48 months for driving a Ford Escort on Trafalgar Road, Tividale, while over the alcohol limit.

Michael Robert Clarke, aged 39, of Dingle Street, Oldbury: Given a 12 month suspended sentence, ordered to have treatment for alcohol dependency, ordered to pay £100 compensation and £25 costs for being in possession of a quantity of herbal cannabis, causing damage to a front window, failing without reasonable excuse to surrender to custody at Sandwell and West Bromwich Magistrates Court having been released on bail, and for failing without reasonable cause to surrender at Warley Magistrates Court or as soon after that time as was reasonably practicable having been released on bail.

Bakary Jawneh, aged 37, of Cotterills Lane, Ward End, Birmingham: Fined £35 with £85 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed three points for driving a Nissan Micra on West Bromwich Ringway without a licence.

Matthew John Spooner, aged 31, of Winn House, Burrows Street, Walsall: Fined £125 with £85 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed six points on licence for driving a Vauxhall Zafira on Seagar Street without due care and attention and for driving the vehicle which had a front offside tyre with insufficient tread.

Hilda Daffon, aged 41, of Bridge Street, West Bromwich: Given a six month suspended sentence, ordered to undertake a skills for life activity requirement and ordered to pay £50 costs for failing without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirements of a community order.

The following people have been convicted for failing to give information to the police relating to the identification of the driver of a vehicle who was alleged to have been guilty of an offence. Vehicles are placed in brackets:

Delwar Hussain, aged 34, of Delville Road, Wednesbury: Fined £525 with £85 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed six points on licence (Vauxhall Astra).

Jasbir Singh Johal, aged 23, of Crocketts Road, Handsworth, Birmingham: Fined £525 with £85 costs, ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge and endorsed six points on licence (Audi A4).

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Plan to build £5m health centre on car park site

A SCHEME to build a £5 million health centre on a former car park in Great Bridge will be submitted to planners in April.

sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

If approved, the Sandwell Council-owned land will be redeveloped as a centre with two GP surgeries, and work is due to start by summer 2012.

There will also be extra community services and some outpatient facilities available.

Guy Carson, at Sandwell Primary Care Trust, said: "An initial design for a new health centre on the former car park is set to be submitted for planning approval in April. This is following a number of public meetings in the area, and consultation with healthcare professionals on the type of services that should be available to people in the area.

Market

"The scheme is a key part of the Right Care Right Here programme."

The 200-space car park on the High Street has been closed since April when Great Bridge's new market opened at the opposite end of the town with its own 94-space car park.

The site had been earmarked for housing but those plans fell through.

Nearby traders have called for the car park to reopen. They claim the area has become a "ghost town" since the closure.

Great Bridge Traders Association spokesman Tony Roper said: "There are a number of brownfield sites around the town they could use for this health centre but they're determined to use this car park.

"It will ruin the balance of the town."

Murder on her mind

BLACK Country-born crime writer Judith Cutler will give a talk at an Oldbury library this afternoon (Thursday). The former Oldbury Grammar School pupil, who now lives in Harborne, is giving a free talk on 'Murder: Ancient and Modern' at Bleakhouse Library, along with her husband Edward Marston.

She has written more than 20 crime novels, many set in Birmingham, and invented the characters of amateur sleuth Sophie Rivers and Detective Sergeant Kate Power. The event starts at 2.30pm.

Molineux groundsman helps at the Hawthorns

Wolves groundsman Chris Lane gets his marching orders from West Bromwich Albion head groundsman Rob Lane during his charity mow at The Hawthorns

WOLVES groundsman Chris Lane put rivalry to one side when he paid a visit to The Hawthorns – to mow the pitch.

Wearing a Wolves top, the 21-year-old dropped into West Bromwich Albion's stadium as part of a challenge to mow a strip of grass at every Premier League club for Comic Relief.

"It was a bit daunting," said Chris, who has had a season ticket at Molineux for the past seven years.

"Never for one moment did I think I would ever be on that pitch.

"But in the end it was all good fun. I had a laugh and a joke with Albion's head groundsman Rob Lane and had finished before I knew it."

The Hawthorns was one of four grounds visited by Mr Lane last week as he kick-started the first leg of his challenge.

Villa

He also drove to the grounds of Aston Villa, Birmingham City and Stoke City, making it back to his home in Giggetty Lane, Wombourne, by 3pm.

In the coming weeks he will be travelling across the country in a bid to raise a target £1,000 for Comic Relief on March 18.

So far Chris has received permission from 15 of the league's 20 clubs. To sponsor him go online to visit website my.rednoseday.com/chrislane

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thechronicle

Natalie follows her Hollywood dream

Natalie Cutler, aged 21, of Rowley Regis, is off to America in a bid to find movie roles

AN aspiring actress is swapping the Black Country for the bright lights of LA as she follows her dream to make it in Hollywood.

Natalie Cutler has already worked for movie studios Warner Brothers and Disney.

The 21-year-old, of Harvest Road in Rowley Regis, graduated from Birmingham Theatre School with a "high distinction" grade.

Roles

She was offered a scholarship to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in California, but could not raise the money to go.

Now four years on she is determined to make the move stateside – and already has two film roles lined up.

NHS trust defend move to force out traders in land buy

THE trust that runs Sandwell Hospital has defended its intention to force businesses to sell up to make way for a £370 million super hospital in Smethwick.

Firms face having to sell after Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust was given approval to proceed with compulsory purchase orders to make way for the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital. The trust already owns much of the site in Grove Lane but needs to clear the rest of the site before building work – expected to start in 2013 – can begin.

Last week The Chronicle reported businesses at risk include The London Works Tavern, which has been standing for more than 100 years on London Street, and sign firm SMP Ltd which employs nine people at its base on the same road.

In a statement the trust said, following a public inquiry into the use of compulsory purchase orders, inspector David Prentis concluded there was a clear need for the new hospital as part of the broader strategy for the delivery of improved healthcare. The order lands would provide a site of the required size in the best location.

Medical director, Donal O'Donoghue, said: "Many of the existing hospital facilities are much more than 100 years old and not suitable for modern healthcare."

Grandfather who won health funds starting treatment

A GRANDFATHER from Wednesbury who won a battle for medication has started treatment for his rare brain tumour.

Keith Walker suffers from acromegaly, a tumour on his pituitary gland that will develop cancers if left untreated. The 52-year-old was initially denied funding for a drug called Pegvisomant, thought to be able to shrink his tumour but costing £28,000.

Following a campaign backed by more than 2,000 supporters, Sandwell Primary Care Trust agreed to funding for the drug. Mr Walker, who lives in Queen Street with partner Elaine Collins and her daughter Gemma, said: "My treatment has started and I'm due some tests in two months to see how it is going. It's probably too early to tell what affect it's having. At the moment I'm feeling OK. I'm still at work but these tests will decide if they need to up the dosage."

Dr John Middleton, director of public health for Sandwell PCT, said: "Additional clinical information was provided which demonstrates that Mr Walker is more likely to benefit from this treatment than other patients with similar conditions."

Black Country heritage sculpture trail will connect boroughs

A £40,000 sculpture trail connecting Sandwell and Dudley is set to be created along a five mile stretch of the Dudley Canal.

Cradley Heath sculptor Luke Perry has been commissioned to complete the work and has a grant from Dudley Canal Trust for the project. Under the plan, 35 two dimensional sculptures will be displayed along the Dudley Canal. The trail will stretch from Blowers Green Bridge on Pear Tree Lane in Dudley along the canal through Bumble Hole Nature Reserve on the Sandwell border to the Gorsty Hill Tunnel in Old Hill.

Luke, aged 27, set up his own firm – Industrial Heritage Stronghold – three years ago and creates artwork to champion the Black Country. He has created a sculpture trail in Walsall Wood and helped create a 20-ton anchor to replicate the one on the Titanic made in Netherton.

He said: "It is important to me that the artwork reflects the area and each of the sculptures will indicate something on the site, reflecting with what happened on the canal or what it is used for now. I want as many people as possible to be involved in the design process, which is beginning now.

Mr Perry is consulting with four schools, including Brickhouse Primary in Rowley Regis, and community groups. The sculptures will stand around six ft tall. All materials will be sourced from the Black Country and the sculptures will be flat, so as not to obstruct the towpath.

There will also be over 50 life-sized steel moorhens dotted on the canalside. The work is due for completion at the end of July.

Luke Perry

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Role of honour for Julie

BLACK Country actress Julie Walters compared picking up an honorary doctorate to being the awarded the OBE as she visited Birmingham to receive her award.

Walters, who turned 61 last week, was presented with the award from Birmingham City University during a ceremony at Symphony Hall and admitted it was "fabulous" to receive the honour.

The actress and comedienne, who is from Smethwick, attended Holly Lodge Grammar School for Girls in Holly Lane and left as a teenager to study English and drama in Manchester.

On receiving her honorary doctorate, the Harry Potter actress, who received a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination for her part in 1983 movie Educating Rita, said: "It's fabulous.

"It compares hugely well to getting an OBE because this is my home."

"I'm a Black Country girl, there is no other way on God's earth I would have got a degree," she said.

X Factor

Former X Factor finalist Rhydian Roberts also received an Alumni of the Year award during the university's presentation event last week.

Josie and Bill get plaudits too at freemen ceremony

A DATE has been set for when Old Hill-born actress Josie Lawrence will officially become a freeman of the Borough of Sandwell.

The honour will be granted to the award-winning actress on Saturday April 2. And long-standing former Tory councillor Bill Archer will be made an honorary alderman at the same time.

The joint ceremony will be held in the council chamber at Sandwell Council House in Freeth Street, Oldbury, starting at 11am.

The 51-year-old actress, who now lives in Hackney in London, is still regularly seen in Sandwell where her family live. Best known for her comedy performances in the hit series Whose Line Is It Anyway? she was more recently in EastEnders where she played the part of Amanda Best.

Josie is a recognised stage actress too. She started her career at the Barlow Theatre in Oldbury, where she is a patron, and went on to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company where in the 1990s she received the Dame Peggy Ashcroft award for best actress. She is involved in charity work, helping to raise thousands of pounds for breast cancer research and to provide help for children suffering from autism and special needs.

During her career she has received honorary doctorates from Dartington, the University of Wolverhampton and Aston University.

Josie will be the 11th Honorary Freeman of Sandwell. She will be the second actress to be given the honour. In 2004, Smethwick-born actress Julie Walters was made an honorary freeman alongside Oldbury-born comedian Frank Skinner and former WBA favourite Cyrille Regis.

Mr Archer was one of the borough's longest serving council members and represented the Wednesbury North ward for 35 years until his recent retirement. He served as Mayor in 2005/2006 and raised a record amount of money – £35,500 – for his chosen charities Prostate Cancer and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Smethwick-raised actress and comedienne Julie Walters receives her honorary doctorate at Birmingham's Symphony Hall

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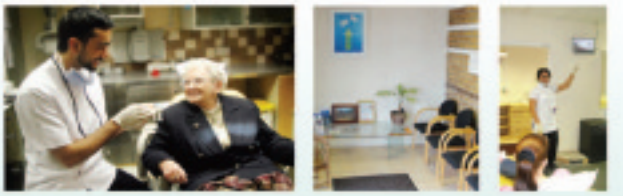

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Miss Teen made up over win

Miss Teen Photogenic winner Grace Weaver, 16, from Stone Cross

AN aspiring model from West Bromwich is looking forward to being one of the faces of a new cosmetics brand after winning a national beauty pageant.

Grace Weaver will appear on posters and television advertisements for Feel Good products from April.

The 16-year-old earned the privilege after coming first in the Miss Teen Photogenic competition last year, ahead of hundreds of other girls.

Grace, who lives at Stone Cross, had to model two outfits on a catwalk at Epsom Race Course in London before a panel a judges selected her as the winner. She said: "It's great. I want to be noticed.

"I really enjoy modelling – I have done it all my life I love the glamour and being in front of the camera."

Runners-up from the competition will also appear on the Feel Good products.

Grace, who has just started a hair and beauty course at Birmingham Metropolitan College's Sutton Coldfield campus, entered her first modelling competition at the age of two.

Grace's mother, Lisa Firkin, 44, said: "I am so proud."

Library joins biggest books giveaway

THE Central Library in West Bromwich will on Saturday be taking part in the largest book giveaway ever attempted.

The bid to celebrate adult books and reading will see one million free books given away on World Book Night across Britain. On Saturday , between 7pm and 9.30pm, members of the public will have the opportunity to take part in the special event at Central Library.

It will form part of a nationwide celebration of books and reading on a single evening. The books being gifted have been chosen from a carefully selected list of 25 titles.

The free event in West Bromwich, is also a celebration of television and the performing arts, and there will be music and a visit from a Doctor Who Dalek.

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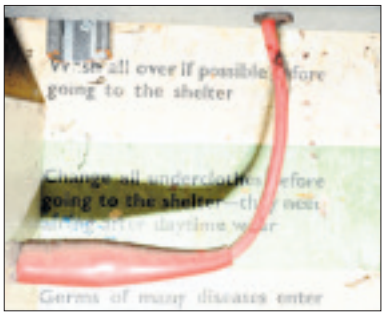
Baths hide shelter for townsfolk in wartime



Signs from when the shelter was in use remain intact

At ground level is Smethwick Swimming Centre

WARTIME memories of Smethwick pensioners can play a vital part in the restoration of a massive former air raid shelter beneath the town' swimming baths.

Staff at Smethwick Swimming Centre, in Thimblemill Road, host hold an information-gathering day today (Thursday). Centre manager Chris Webley said the project would take two months to complete and would be used to educate visitors about life in Smethwick during World War Two.

Childish graffiti from the time still adorn the walls of the basement at Smethwick Swimming Centre. It includes line drawings of German fighter planes, complete with swastikas, and falling bombs. Wartime signs remain on the walls of the shelter. One warns that people suffering from infectious diseases are prohibited from entering, and another orders people to wash before they enter and to change underwear, and pointing out: "They need airing after daytime wear".

Historians want to build up an accurate picture of the shelter in the 1940s before applying for a £50,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant to restore two basement rooms.

The centre, which was built in 1933, was an integral part of defence during the war years when a group of underground rooms, called The Subways, were used as a shelter during Nazi air raids.

Manager Chris Webley in the former air raid shelter below Smethwick Swimming Centre

Maximum

Centre manager Chris Webley said: "At the moment we don't know what it used to be like, although there are some really fascinating bits and pieces that remain in place. We know there used to be a tunnel that ran under the road and an emergency exit, but we don't know whether there were bunk beds or just mattresses on the floor, for example."

On Thursday, staff will be asking residents to share their memories of the shelter as well as any old photographs or war memorabilia. Sessions will run from 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm. Once they have a better understanding of what the interior of the shelter was like, and what it contained, they aim to create a replica in one room as well as creating a 1940s classroom for school visits in the other.

Mr Webley said: "We can bid for up to £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery. I can't see us needing the maximum amount but we will be able to better price up the cost once we have held the information- gathering day."

He added that he hoped several elderly residents would eventually be prepared to record their memories on video so that two separate documentaries could be made for use by primary and secondary school children during visits.

Chris Webley can easily touch the ceiling in the wartime bunker, above. Left, some of the graffiti left by Smethwick children sheltering from German bombing raids over the town during World War Two

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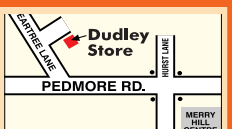

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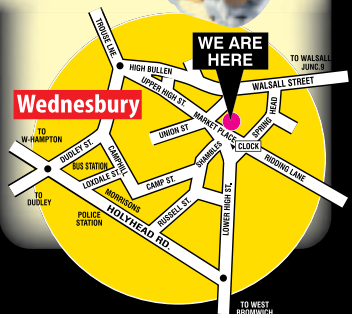

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Teens sent to jail for murder

TWO teenagers have been jailed for the murder of Birmingham man Adam Cusack.

Mr Cusack, aged 19, died from a single stab wound to his heart on Kingsbury Road in Erdington, in the early hours of Saturday, July 17 last year.

Jordan Subhan, aged 17, received 14 years for murder, six years for wounding and three years for violent disorder, the sentences to run concurrently. Declan Moore, aged 17, received 12 years for murder and three years for violent disorder, to run concurrently.

Ross Hinton, aged 18, received three years for violent disorder. He will serve half at a young offenders' institute and half on licence.

Tragic

They were sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court on Monday.

CID Inspector Buck Rogers said: "This was a tragic incident.

"Although those sentenced will be able to reflect on their actions while serving lengthy custodial sentences, it must be remembered a family have lost a loved one and have to live with the consequences of this crime for the rest of their lives. The sentences send a clear message that this type of violence will not be tolerated in the city.

"West Midlands Police are committed to bringing to justice the individuals who believe they can act with impunity."

Organisers extend deadline for queen and princess competitions

Last call for the carnival royalty

A FINAL search is on to find a carnival queen and princess for a Black Country extravaganza after attracting only a handful of entrants.

The struggle to find willing girls to lead Tipton Carnival comes after the competition was revived following pleas from residents after it was scrapped last year because of dwindling entrants. But this year just four people applied to become carnival queen and, as of last week, not a single girl has yet come forward to become the princess for the day.

Selection contests for both competitions were due to be held last Friday but were put back by a month.

The competitions for carnival queen, for girls aged over 16 and princess, for girls aged between 12 and 15, ran for 47 years before they were called off last year.

A junior competition, to find a rosebud, aged between nine and 11 and sweet pea, aged between five to eight, will still go ahead on March 27, and will now include the contests for the older age groups.

It is hoped that by extending the deadline more applicants will put their names forward.

Tina Rigby, of the Tipton Community Association, which runs the competition said: "We are very disappointed at the level of interest. We have postponed the final in the hope that we will get more entries."

Tina said she believed the lack on interest stems from the fact there is no longer a carnival parade in the town. The popular parade was discontinued in 2008 because of health and safety concerns.

She added: "I think that interest has waned as the winners no longer get to take part in the parade."

To apply for any of the competitions call Angie on 07530 374438.

Applicants must have a DY4 postcode to take part and carnival queen competition applicants must be over 16.

Anger at drunk burglar who raided charity shop

CHARITY workers have criticised a criminal who broke in, stole 40 watches and caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage at a Sandwell shop.

Andrew Williams from Bearwood iw now behind bars after being jailed for eight months at Warley Magistrates Court.

Magistrates heard the thief was high on drink and drugs when he smashed his way into the Bearwood Road Age UK.

The incident shocked volunteers at the shop, including 76-year-old Jean Evans. The great grandmother-of-four said: "It's very miserable that we're all trying our best to bring money in and people think they can just walk in and take things away."

The retired cleaner, who volunteers three days a week at the shop, added: "We will now have to pay for all those repairs and it takes away from the charity."

Assistant manager Lianne Bennet also spoke of her frustration.

"This will have a massive impact on us," she said.

"We have already paid £201 to have the premises secured and I expect it will cost £300 to repair the damage.

"The money will have to come out of our budget and it stops us helping other people."

Williams admitted burglary at Warley Magistrates last week.

Smashed

He also pleaded guilty to a separate charge of stealing a £14 bottle of whiskey from Asda in Cape Hill on November 13.

The court heard he smashed two windows on the front door of the charity shop to get in.

Police were called and found him hiding in the toilet at the back of the shop with the 40 watches, which were worth £4.99 each.

Prosecutor Kelly Hale said Williams, aged 38, from Bearwood Road, tested positively for drugs after being arrested.

Harmail Gill, defending, said his client was drunk during the break-in.

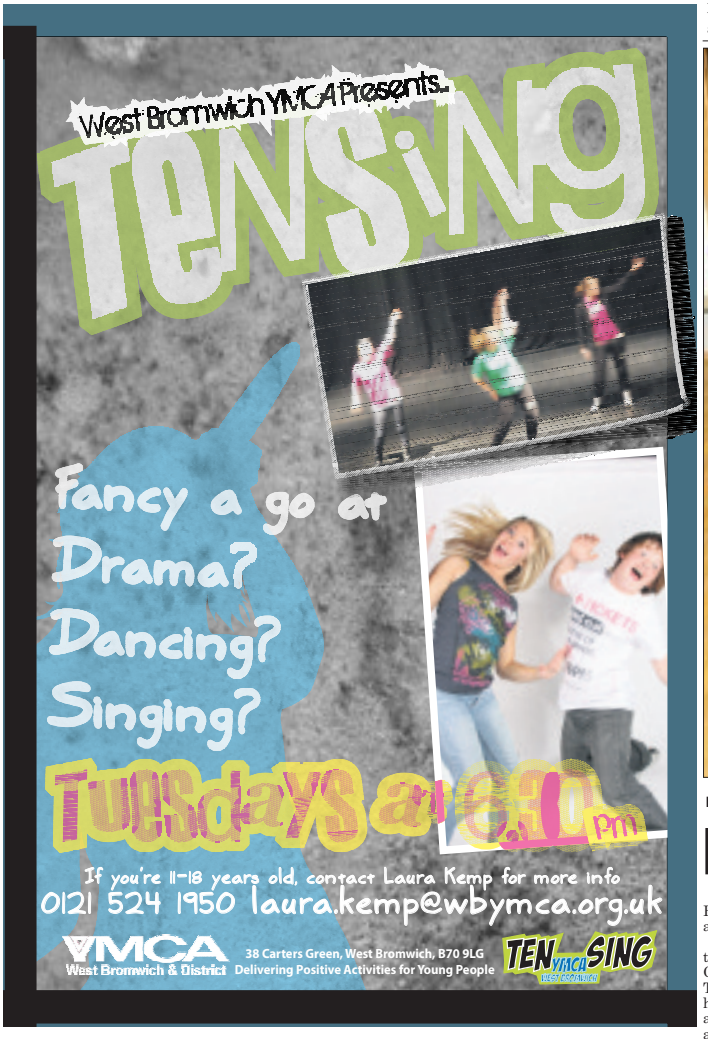
Magistrates jailed Williams for 20 weeks for the burglary and 12 weeks for the theft and ordered the terms be served consecutively.

Search for dancers

A CELEBRITY choreographer is heading to Birmingham to find the UK's next street dance sensations.

Sisco Gomez, who has created dance moves for Kylie Minogue and worked with Madonna and Pink, will be at The Bullring, on Saturday March 19. He will be supported by StreetDance 3D movie star Brooke Milliner and top b-girl Roxy, in his search for the country's hottest dance talent.

Auditions will take place in front of an audience and panel of expert judges. To register, or to find out more, visit the www.facebook.com/streetdancethesearch page.



Front, Liam Pearson, aged 10, Sydney Tambourini, eight. Middle, Chloe Phillips 10, Mark Ruddick, Nathan Hawkins 11. Back, Valentina Liperis, eight, Lydia Carrington, Jude Jones, eight, Donna Beddall, Lauren Parks, Rosie Phillips, nine

Lessons from stuntman

A PROFESSIONAL stuntman visited a Bearwood theatre group to teach amateur actors how to fight on stage.

Mark Ruddick, who is set to appear in the new X-Men movie, was at St Hilda's Church Hall to meet members of the Treadlight Theatre Company. The group has a dozen members aged between seven and 11, who were given lessons in armed and unarmed combat, showing them how to perform safe but convincing stunts.

Lauren Parkes, aged 23, of Harborne is a writer, actor and director, who set up the group with Donna Beddall and Lydia Carrington in October. She said: "I went to university with Mark and he agreed to come up from Torquay to run the sessions."

The group put on its first show at Christmas and another production is planned for April 2, based on pantomime and circus.

Bid to save birds from poisoning at lagoon

BARRIERS will be installed at a Sandwell pool blamed for the death of more than 50 birds

Residents have campaigned for years claiming birds have died after ingesting phosphorous at the Rattlechain Mere Pool in Oldbury, which was used as a landfill site for the Rhodia chemical plant over decades. Rhodia say they are working on plans to protect the birds.

The site was used mainly for calcium slurry and phosphorus waste, from Rhodia's Trinity Road site under licence from the Environment Agency. The last waste went into the lagoon in 2005.

In recent years, birds feeding at the site have become poisoned by chemicals. The company says it is taking steps to develop a long-term plan to protect the wildlife.

Harmful

John Moorhouse, site redevelopment manager at Rhodia, said: "Regrettably, over recent years, a number of dead birds have been found at the lagoon. On each occasion we have sent the birds for independent post mortems.

"Since April 2009, if the post mortems prove to be inconclusive, we have arranged for a more sophisticated test for the presence of phosphorus to be undertaken by a specialist laboratory. These tests have confirmed the presence of phosphorus.

"We are currently working to instal a long-term solution to this issue with the aim of preventing wild birds landing on the lagoon from ingesting harmful sediment.

"Following a trial undertaken in 2010, we are progressing with a scheme to instal a geotextile barrier on the lagoon to isolate the harmful sediment."

Ian Carroll, from Sandwell Swanwatch campaign group, said he feared the move meant harmful phosphorous remained at the site.

He added: "They have to skim the sediment off and incinerate it, that is the only way of removing white phosphorous off the site, any other option leaves the phosphorous behind."

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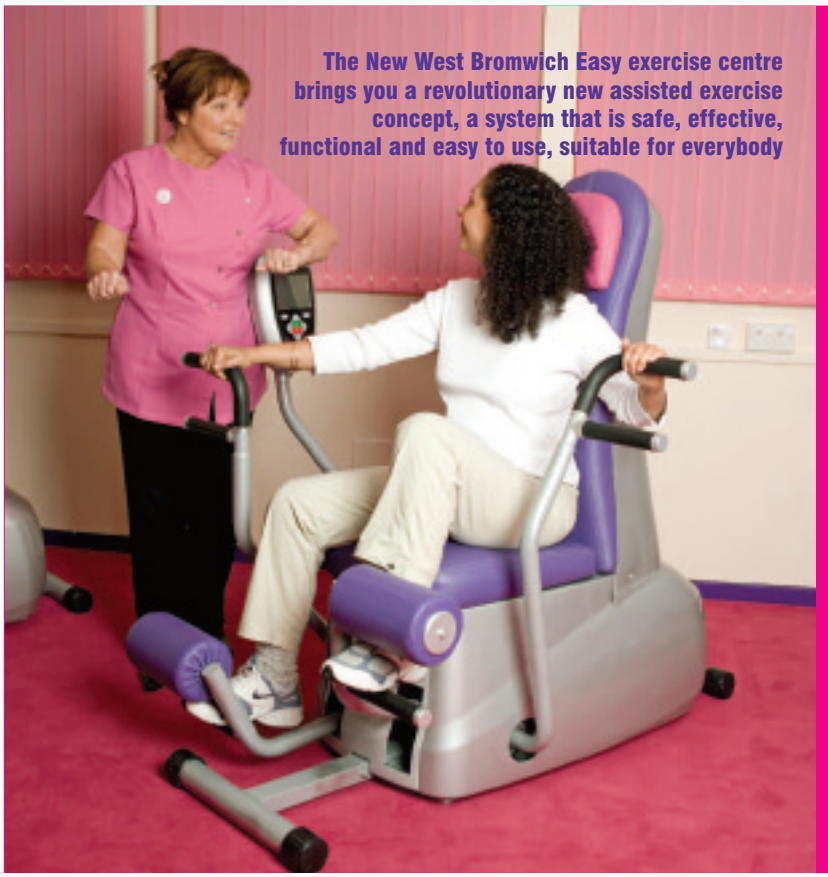

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Pupils enjoy a teddy bears' picnic – from back Cruz Ngwashi, aged three, Joshua Hadley, five, front, Savannah Boughton, four, Kelly-Ann Bridge, five

Pupils enjoy day of toy fun

CHILDREN at a Sandwell primary school brought in their cuddly toys for a teddy bears' picnic.

About 80 children aged between three and five took part in the picnic at St Mary's Primary, Beaumont Road, Wednesbury.

The children helped to make jam, cheese and ham sandwiches in the shape of teddy bears and then sat on the floor to eat them.

As well as the picnic, children also drew pictures of their teddy bears for a school competition, which was won by five-year-old by Lily-Mai Costigan, who received a family ticket to visit Ash End House Farm near Tamworth. The children have been learning about toys and teddy bears all term and the picnic was to celebrate all their hard work

Hospitals need to take on more staff

DOZENS of staff are to be recruited for hospitals serving Sandwell to plug an "urgent shortfall".

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust needs extra staff to run its emergency departments at Sandwell Hospital in West Bromwich and City Hospital in Birmingham for the next four years.

Figures show that under national policy, the hospitals only have enough staff to deal with around half the number of patients using services annually.

A report to last week's meeting of the trust's board called for significant investment in the workforce of the departments across both hospitals.

Move

It is in preparation for the move to a single department when the new £370 Midland Metropolitan Hospital opens in Smethwick in 2016 – at a cost of almost £6m over the next four years.

It states that using the standard set out by The College of Emergency Medicine, which recommends staffing levels the trust should achieve, the Sandwell department is staffed for 40,300 patients annually, when in fact it has 83,000 patients per year, while City Hospital is staffed for 75,400 patents when attendances are 109,000 annually.

In October last year the West Midlands Quality Review Service reviewed both of the emergency departments with feedback expressing that both departments required additional medical staff to cope.

It is estimated that there will be 150,000 attendances at the emergency department when the new hospital opens in 2016, and to meet requirements it is proposed to recruit 29 staff – a mix of consultants, junior doctors and nurses and administrative staff.

The report says in 2011/12 the extra cost will be £1.049m, rising to £1.9m in 2012/13, £1.5m in 2013/14 and £1.3m in 2014/15.

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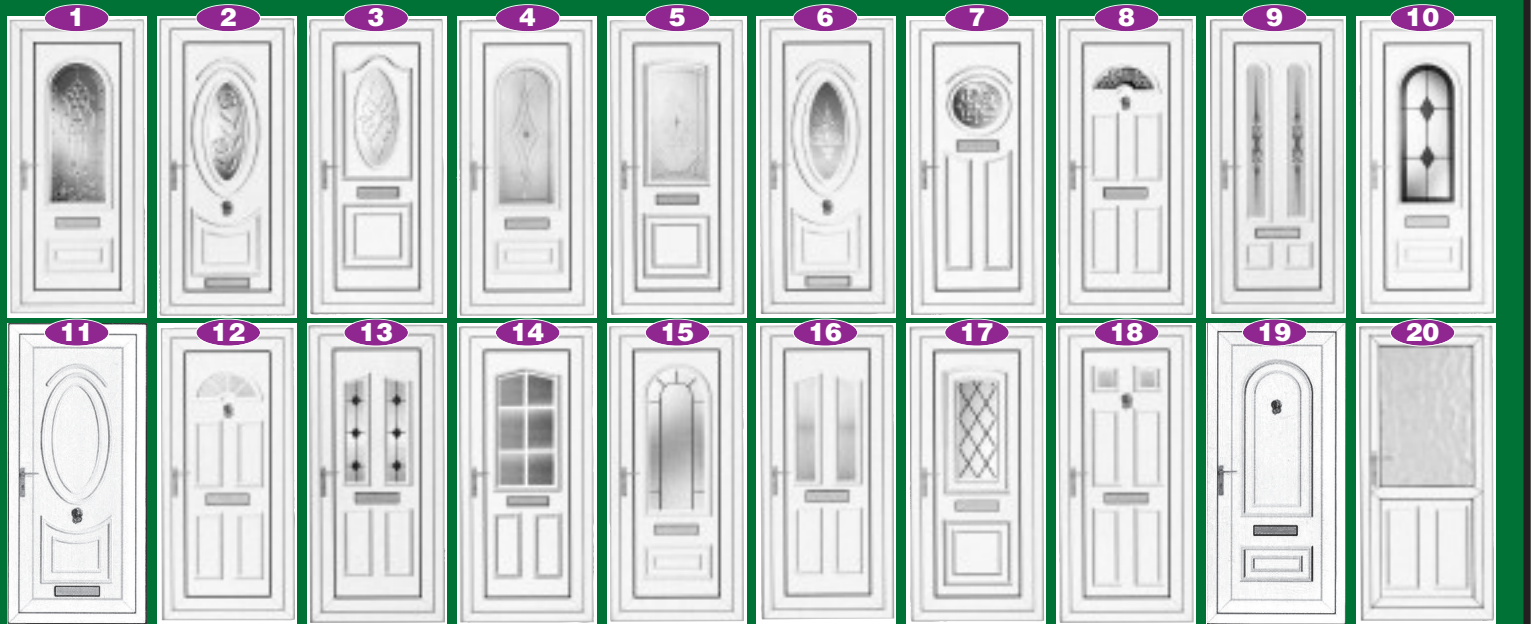

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Hundreds will miss out on school choice

MORE than a thousand Sandwell schoolchildren will miss out on their first choice of secondary school this year.

Hundreds of thousands of 11-year-olds across the country were learning on Tuesday which school they have been allocated for this September, on what is known as National Offer Day.

In some areas of England, as many as two in five are set to be denied their preferred place as competition for the best schools is fierce. In Sandwell, 1,010 children have missed out on their first choice school.

In total, 3,741 pupils applied, with 73 per cent securing their first choice. Last year, 72 per cent of youngsters across the borough got their first choice of secondary school. A total of 2,915 letters went out.

Councillor Bob Badham said: "We work very hard to endeavour that people do get consideration for their first choice, but obviously when schools are over-subscribed with first choices it makes it more difficult.

"We have laid down a procedure this year for parents to follow so that they know exactly how to go about applying for places for their children and the procedures that are in place to follow if they are not happy, so we have done our guidance on that as well.

"Unfortunately, you just cannot guarantee everybody is going to get their first choice place."

Birmingham

In Birmingham, almost one in three youngsters have missed out on their first choice. Around 69.2 per cent out of 9,364 pupils got their top choice. In Staffordshire, 93.3 per cent of children were offered places at their first choice school, which is slightly down on last year when the success rate was 95 per cent.

Crane and lifting firm must pay after narrow escape for workers

A WEST Bromwich crane firm has been made to pay more than £15,000 after workers at a warehouse in the north-east narrowly avoided being struck by a steel girder weighing almost four tons.

The 50ft girder was so heavy it partially demolished an office when slings used to attach the beam to a crane failed. Lifting specialists and crane makers, Konecranes UK Ltd, had been contracted to move a crane runway.

Newcastle Magistrates Court heard the firm had to move the runway from one end of a warehouse to the other at Siemens Energy Services, in Shields Road. When the slings failed the massive beam fell some 45ft, just missing workers and destroying an office. The office was empty and no-one was injured in the August 2009 incident.

Konecranes UK Ltd, of Lloyds House, Albion Road, pleaded guilty to breaching the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. The company was fined £8,000 plus £7,529 costs. After the hearing, Health and Safety Executive inspector Andrew Woodhall, said: "This was an entirely preventable incident with the real potential to cause serious injury or even death. That Konecranes UK ignored the legal requirement for lifting operations to be planned properly and carried out in a safe manner is unacceptable.

"The Konecranes operatives had no advance warning of the failure of the slings and as it happened they had a narrow and lucky escape. Fortunately, no-one was hurt on this occasion but this alarming incident should act as a reminder to others that standards need to be maintained to ensure the safety of workers at all times."

No-one from Konecranes was available for comment at the time of The Chronicle going to press.

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Funny names for little dragons

TWO bearded dragons have joined a tribute to Blackadder at Dudley Zoo when Education Assistant, Amy Hickman, pictured right with reptile friends, named the lizards after her favourite TV comedy show.

Amy, of Sedgley, said: "I had already called two other bearded dragons in our collection Baldrick and Edmund, so I just carried on the theme and named the new ones Percy and Queenie. I think the names rather suit the species."

The two-year-old lizards were donated by Mrs Lynn Coaton, of Heron Road, Oldbury. The gentle-natured creatures belonged to her daughter Hannah, who was unable to take the lizards with her when she moved to university. The newcomers have settled in well with fellow 'beardies' Edmund and Baldrick. The Blackadder Four have joined the collection in the site's Discovery Centre and are also used in lectures.

Work starts at pool site

WORK is set to start preparing the site for a £13 million swimming pool in West Bromwich.

Sandwell Council is moving ahead with ambitious plans for a 25-metre, six-lane pool complex off Moor Street and Bromford Lane. It has bought the derelict Prince Albert pub on the plot and plans to demolish it and start other site works. It is expected the complex will open in 2014 and also include a learner pool, four-court sports hall and gym.

Cabinet member for youth, culture and leisure Cllr Ann Shackleton said: "Local people have told us they want a swimming pool in West Bromwich and we are determined to deliver it for them. There has been real progress on moving ahead with the scheme – including acquiring a site and drawing up planning and other contract documents – and the pace of development will now start to quicken."

Consultation

The council has carried out consultation with West Bromwich residents over the scheme, a process that will continue.

The council is also looking to build an £8.8m swimming complex on vacant land at the junction of Alexandra Road and Thursfield Road in Tipton. That pool is due to open in 2013.

Sixth formers planning to help African pupils

PUPILS and staff at the Phoenix Collegiate in West Bromwich have embarked on 'Project Gambia', a fundraising drive aiming to raise £11,000 for a planned trip to Africa.

Seventeen students from the sixth form, along with four members of staff, will spend a week at the end of March visiting New Life Children's Centres in and around Bakau, Gambia, where they will run a series of teaching sessions focusing on sport, drama, education and beauty, for pupils aged three to 19.

The students will also spend time in the villages, visiting an orphanage, playing sport with the locals and finding out what life is like for Gambians.

Sue Davenport, director of sixth form at the Phoenix Collegiate, said: "We've been taking sixth form pupils on bi-annual trips to Gambia, working with Danny Delong of LifeForce UK, for a number of years now so have forged close relationships with the team behind the New Life Centres and the children that they support.

"Gambia is one of the poorest nations in Africa. Many of the villages are very basic with no electricity and homes that are made out of mud and corrugated sheets – some are even next to huge open rubbish dumps. This trip provides us with an opportunity to make a difference to the Gambian children and acts as a real eye opener.

"The whole school is working together to raise as much money as possible and it'd be fantastic if the local community could get behind us."

Students will be bag packing in Morrisons stores in Wednesbury and Bescot on March 19 and April 9. A Salsa night, including a lesson, dancing and supper, is being held at Phoenix Collegiate North Site this Saturday (£10 per ticket).

The Phoenix Collegiate is a new Sport, Business and Enterprise College that brings together over 2,000 pupils from the former Manor and Menzies schools.

For more information call Sue Davenport on (0121) 556 2858.

Phoenix sixth formers with, far right, Sue Davenport

Above left, a typical family home in Bakau; above right, schoolchilden in Bakau

Christina-Jane Crossman-Barnes on her expedition in the Lake District

Palace date for gold winner embarking on medical career

A STUDENT from Great Barr is due to receive her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at a ceremony in London.

Christina-Jane Crossman-Barnes, who is currently studying Biomedical Sciences at the University of Southampton, will travel to London on April 14 to receive her certificate from Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, at St James's Palace.

The 19-year-old from Waddington Avenue, completed a range of activities including volunteering, an expedition and a residential course to gain her Gold Award.

Christina-Jane said: "Completing my Duke of Edinburgh award has had a huge impact on my life and the way I view things. I'm looking forward to collecting my certificate."

For the volunteering part of the course, Christina-Jane worked two hours a week at Acorns Children's Hospice, where she played games and chatted to ill children. She said: "At first it was upsetting but the children weren't bothered by their illness, it was better to see that they were happy."

Christina-Jane attended King Edward VI Handsworth School, and it was with five other girls from the school that she completed her four day expedition in the Lake District. Each day consisted of around seven to eight hours of walking and navigating. Christina-Jane said: "It rained hard, was muddy and we got lost, but we managed to pull through and we came out the other side smiling."

Leadership

She completed the residential section on the 'Do It 4 Real' course in the Peak District where she learned leadership skills, which she has already put into practice. She said: "It's good that I'm already using skills I learnt on the course to join societies at university."

Christina-Jane aims to read medicine to become an obstetrican

The Duke of Edinburgh Award aims to inspire, educate and support anyone between the ages of 14 and 24 in their self-development, and has had more than four million participants since 1956.

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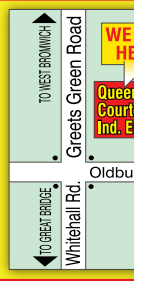

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thechronicle

Plea on plan to restore engine

AN APPEAL is being made for workshop space to help with the restoration of the Sandwell Locomotive.

Volunteers are in talks with the council to restore the railway engine, which was built in Smethwick. Storage space is needed where volunteers can work on the engine. It is currently at Kidderminster under the care of the Severn Valley Railway but needs full restoration.

Built in the 1960s, it is a class 27 diesel locomotive, one of around 30 which saw service in Scotland. The engine, which cost Sandwell Council £23,000 in 1989 to promote the borough, is eventually to be sold to the highest bidder.

Councillor Ann Shackleton said: "The Sandwell Locomotive...is an important part of our industrial and railway heritage and we are determined to ensure its future. We would love to hear from a business in Sandwell that has spare storage space so that we can bring the engine back to the borough so that with some tender loving care it can be restored."

The locomotive was built at the Birmingham Railway and Carriage Works in Smethwick and bought by the council to run trips for children and pensioners. However, running costs escalated and the council is now planning a sale.

The asking price has not been disclosed.

Concern for future of historic building

Astle House has been on the market for years

FEARS have been raised about the future of a historic West Bromwich Grade II listed building which has failed to find a buyer after years on the market.

Astle House, former home to famous printing and publishing firm Kenrick & Jefferson, dates back to 1883. A number of sales have fallen through and it failed to sell at an auction at Villa Park in December.

James Mattin, of owners Bond Wolfe, last week said the building on High Street would not be at the company's next auction in March.

Mr Mattin said: "We have just left it on the books. At some point this year we will look to try to sell again or refurbish it but being a listed building we have got to look into it.

"Whether it is sold or not, either us or a buyer will look to refurbish it to a usable standard, which will probably mean bringing it back to life as offices as it was previously used, but whether is is used or sold I don't know at this stage."

He said the poor economic climate was the major reason why the building, which has a price tag of £525,000, had failed to sell.

Market

He said: "The reason it hasn't sold is purely the market – people just aren't prepared to take something on because nine out of 10 people are going to need a bank to fund refurbishing, and the banks are not really looking to lend unless it is a surefire success with somebody who has got a track record."

Astle House covers 10,000sq ft and is next to the Astle Park retail complex.

Sandwell Council has given planning permission to turn the distinctive red brick building into a leisure venue.

Cabinet member for improvement and efficiency Councillor Mahboob Hussain said: "It is a sad thing to see a building which isn't being brought into use and with the redevelopment of the town it would be a shame if this was not brought back into use.

"Down that end of the town the West Bromwich Building Society and Sandwell College will soon be empty, which is a concern as it will have a major impact," he added.

Nursing home at former eaterie

A NEW care home will transform the derelict site of a former Italian restaurant in Oldbury, if plans are given the go-ahead.

Superior Care Ltd has submitted a proposal for a 50 to 55-bed nursing home for the elderly on the former Valentino Restaurant, in Newbury Lane. An outline planning application from the firm, which already owns Newbury Manor Nursing Home on the other side of the road, has been lodged with Sandwell Council.

Parking

Tividale councillor David Hinton said the scheme was welcome if developers could solve potential parking problems on Newbury Lane.

Cllr Hinton added: "There needs to be consideration whether there is adequate parking, as Newbury Lane is horrendous. Where will the visitors and staff park their cars? That's going to be the major issue. I haven't got a problem with it being a nursing home."

Documents submitted with plans by Shropshire-based AP Architecture Ltd state: "The scheme...aims to regenerate this site and enhance the street scene."

Chip shop boss fears yellow lines will destroy trade

DOUBLE yellow lines will be painted on a street in Wednesbury to stop lorry drivers parking dangerously while buying fish and chips.

The restrictions will be installed on a 14ft stretch in the cul-de-sac Blakedon Road, following complaints from residents. They say parked lorries obstruct the vision of motorists coming out of the cul-de-sac on to Darlaston Road. But Mohammed Bouyis, boss of Darlaston Road's Kings Hill Chippy, fears it could destroy his livelihood.

"Of course this will affect me," he said. "It may put us out of business.

Busy

"Darlaston Road is very busy and a lot of my customers park in Blakedon Road. We have already struggled because of the recession but this could be the knock-out blow. I need the lorry drivers to make a living.

"They are parked and gone in seconds so I think the double yellow lines are not needed."

Blakedon Road resident Betty Bumford, aged 72, said: "In the past it has been a nightmare. Cars pulling out of the street into Darlaston Road find it very difficult because they can't see. There have been one or two near misses.

"People have been asking for this for a long time and I think a lot of us had given up hope. It's very good news."

Residents claim there can be as many as four lorries parking at the end of the cul-de-sac at any one time.

Father-of-three Andy Easterlow, 47, a customer services assistant who also lives in Blakedon Road, said: "The main problems are in the evening, when they park to go and get their fish and chips but it's also a problem at lunchtime. You get cars parking there too, but but when the lorries park there you can't see anything."

The lines are expected to be introduced in April.

Heroin addict found unconscious

A DRUG addict was found unconscious in his bedroom on Christmas Day, an inquest heard.

Jason Fredrick Miller was addicted to smoking heroin, The hearing in Smethwick was told.

Unemployed Mr Miller, aged 35, always went to the bedroom in his home in Bloxcidge Street, Oldbury, to smoke heroin and it was there that he was discovered unconscious, the hearing was told. Despite receiving CPR from paramedics, he died.

The toxicology report revealed very high levels of morphine in his system, a constituent of heroin.

Coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Birmid reunion

HUNDREDS of former engineering workers are set to be reunited at an event celebrating one of Smethwick's biggest employers.

Birmid Industries was once Europe's largest producer of car cylinder blocks and employed tens of thousands of workers from the Black Country over the years.

Known locally as 'The Birmid', the firm opened its doors more than 100 years ago and was a global leader in engineering.

Memories

Workers are invited to bring along old photographs and share memories with fellow ex-workers from the company, which closed in the 1980s.

Founded in 1903, Birmid made the first die-cast aluminium pistons in the world and pioneered aircraft engine casting during the First World War.

The Smethwick Heritage Centre Trust is running the event,which will be held on March 12 at the Dorothy Parkes Centre between 10.30am and 4pm.

Indecent exposure

POLICE are investigating two reports of indecent exposure by a man in fields off Powis Avenue in Tipton. The offender was described as white, aged in his late 20s or early 30s. Contact police on 0345 113 5000.

Ramble on

SANDWELL Ramblers go on a nine mile walk at Whitgreave in Staffordshire on Sunday. Contact organisers Cliff and Cynthia Farnell on (0121) 556 9869 for details.

Cow gets a revamp

WORK is under way on the £80,000 revamp of the Red Cow pub in Smethwick's High Street, Smethwick.

The function room, which holds 100 people, will be expanded to seat 300 when finished.

Bera Mahli, who took over the premises in May last year, said: "The revamp will really make the pub better."

Man choked

A FORMER factory worker was found dead six weeks after his 91-year-old mother died.

Carl Henry Powell, 60, lost his mother in November. Friend Keith Barnfield found his body on New Year's Day at his Esher Road home in West Bromwich. He had no alcohol in his blood. A report said he died due to choking. Coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Sale for church

A TABLE top sale in aid of church repairs will be held at the United Reform Church in Newton Road, Great Barr, on Saturday at 2pm.

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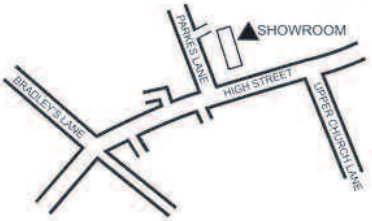

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COMPETITION

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Show helps to build for the future

Careful planning is so important

BRITAIN'S love affair with home-building continues with the Home-building & Renovating Show returning to the NEC, Birmingham this month.

The show from March 24-27 aims to educate and inspire visitors wanting to build their future. And 80 Chronicle readers have a chance to bag a pair of free tickets (worth £28 each).

This year's show is even bigger and more interactive with a whole host of new and innovative design ideas, practical workshops and hands-on demonstrations. With more than 100 new exhibitors, the show brings all the latest in homebuilding and renovating products and services.

It is also a chance for visitors to meet more than 500 of the UK's leading self-build and renovation companies, see 1000s of new products and services and attend one of the 64 free seminars or 48 specialist masterclasses, offering a fantastic opportunity to enjoy advice from the country's leading experts.

The experts from Homebuilding & Renovating magazine will help guide your project from start to finish. Share their real-life experience and hear how to avoid the common pitfalls of self-build and renovation projects. Take this as an opportunity to get the latest tips on design, planning and building regulations, budgeting and energy efficiency.

Share the passions of our experts including Michael Holmes (editor-in-chief of Homebuilding & Renovating Magazine and presenter of I Own Britain's Best Home), Charlie Luxton (green home expert and presenter of Build a New Life in the Country and Best House on the Street), David Snell (consultant at the BBC and the Daily Telegraph's bricks and mortar expert), Mark Brinkley (author of the House Builder's Bible), Tim Pullen (eco expert at Homebuilding & Renovating Magazine) and Sally Tagg (planning expert at Homebuilding & Renovating Magazine).

For visitors wanting more specialist advice, there are 48 free masterclass programmes to address specific problems and issues. Presented by leading exhibitors, these classes offer a great opportunity to talk one-on-one with the leading companies in the industry.

To stand a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following question.

How many free seminars are there?

Send your answer on a postcard to: Homebuild Competition, Chronicle series (Editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES, Closing date: Thursday, March 10. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final

- *For more information and tickets, visit www.homebuildingshow.co.uk or call the ticket hotline on 0844 581 1377. Tickets are £10 in advance or £14 on the door (children under 16 go free).*

THE NATIONAL HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATING SHOW
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TOP TIPS TO MAKE YOUR HOME GREENER

NATIONAL Homebuilding & Renovating Show spokesperson, Jason Orme believes that with higher utility bills and the recent increase in VAT, installing energy efficient systems to your new build or renovation can make an immediate and significant difference to your energy bills.

Jason explains 10 ways to make your home greener and make both short and long term savings:

Insulation: Almost half of heat loss in a home is through the walls. Good and effective insulation keeps heat from escaping.

Solar heating: 30 per cent of the average household heating bill is spent on heating water. Installing solar energy can make you a saving of around £65 per year.

Water recycling: Water recycling methods can save between 30-50 per cent of a home's water requirements.

Heat pumps: Though actual savings figures will depend on your exact fuel prices, self builders can expect to save an average of £250 a year on their energy bill by using heat pumps.

Biomass: Five years ago fuel oil was less than 20p per litre. It is now more than 63p — a rise of 175 per cent. Using biomass fuel can be cheaper.

Eco lighting: Energy saving light bulbs can last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs. They cost as little as £3 and can save you up to £40 per year.

Boilers: Installing the right boiler will also make significant savings; The Energy Savings Trust estimates this to be up to £200 per year for the equivalent of 1.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Secondary glazing: Installing a secondary glazing system which can be fitted easily to the window frame is a great way to keep energy from escaping your home.

Underfloor heating: Running costs for underfloor heating tend to be between 10-30 per cent cheaper than a radiator based system.

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Tributes to devoted fan

A BLACK Country businessman whose devotion to the Baggies earned him the nickname 'Mr Albion' has died at the age of 85.

Tributes have been paid to lifelong West Bromwich Albion supporter Wilf Tibbetts, of Stourbridge. Mr Tibbetts served on the West Bromwich Albion Supporters Club committee for some 25 years.

He was also at the helm of family business Albion Galvanising, in Oldbury, which was known for its distinctive blue and white vans. His wife of nine years Madge Tibbetts, aged 82, said: "He was a very kind and generous man. We have been overwhelmed by the kind cards and letters we have had from people, all saying what a wonderful man he was."

Mr Tibbetts was born in 1926 in Blackheath, where he lived on a farm. As a youngster he played football and ran the mile for Birchfield Harriers. During the Second World War he served first with the Black Watch and later with the Royal Mechanical Electrical Engineers in Egypt. On his return, he set up as a tool setter, married his first wife Mary and played football for Malt Mill United.

Wilf took over the family business during which time Albion Galvanising grew from eight workers to 100 at its peak. He retired aged 62 and sold the business.

For more than 80 years Mr Tibbetts was devoted to the Baggies and followed them home and away and attended home games this season.

Almost 10 years ago Mr Tibbetts found love with Madge, who he had romanced briefly as a teenager before the outbreak of war. The pair found each again other after the deaths of their respective spouses.

Mrs Tibbetts said: "I had a marvellous nine years of marriage with Wilf, he really was a wonderful man. He loved West Bromwich Albion. He started going in 1931 and loved watching them."

Mr Tibbetts, whose funeral was held in Oldswinford on Tuesday, is survived by children Paul and Joanne, four grandchildren, two step daughters, three step grandchildren and two step great-grandchildren. Alan Cleverley, secretary of the West Bromwich Albion Official Supporters Club, said: "He was a true Albion fan."

Wilf Tibbetts

Clearly a good move for window firm

Salinder Singh, left, managing director of Glass Express, with Sukhjeevan Nat, from NatWest Commercial Banking

A THRIVING Oldbury glass company is on track for growth after securing financial backing to expand its headquarters.

Glass Express Midlands has bought its rented premises and two adjoining buildings after securing a financial package from NatWest Commercial Banking and Lombard.

Glass Express Midlands was set up by Salinder Singh in 2008 to manufacture and supply quality flat glass to trade customers.

Customers

The company has seen a rapid growth, including providing flat glass for high-rise buildings, and now has more than 170 customers throughout the UK.

Although the business – which employs 25 – is successful, directors were concerned that growth was restricted by operating from short-term leasehold premises on the Anglo African Industrial Estate.

As a result, the directors approached NatWest Commercial Banking which came up with a financial package to purchase the premises with two adjoining buildings totalling more than 30,000 sq ft. Now it owns its own premises, the Oldbury company says it is looking forward to developing its business and has already won new contracts.

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Like last year's Hyde Park show, their forth-coming December 2010 arena shows sold out in seconds and the Kings of Leon's Summer 2011 concerts are set to be one of the highlights of next year's live calendar.

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Jim Davidson's new play looks at the serious business of being funny

Comedy is not black and white for Jim and Matt

Unlikely partners in laughter tell **LEON BURAKOWSKI** how they developed mutual respect

Matt Blaize and Jim Davidson at The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, where they will be appearing in Davidson's play Stand Up And Be Counted

CONTROVERSIAL comedian Jim Davidson has been accused of being racist, sexist and even anti-disabled but he will be taking the accusations head on in Wolverhampton this spring.

The 58-year-old East End comic has been to Wolverhampton many times, he married (and then divorced) a Wolverhampton girl, fourth wife Tracy Hilton.

But this time instead of a comedy gig at the Civic Hall, he will be treading the boards at the Grand Theatre, starring in a play he wrote himself which looks at the serious side of comedy.

The comic with four ex-wives and several children to support, and who was nearly bankrupted by an eye-watering tax bill, is challenging audiences to examine what makes them laugh in Stand Up And Be Counted! at the Grand from April 9, for a week.

Written during Davidson's self-imposed exile in Dubai, he will be performing stand-up comedy and looking for lots of laughs.

However, it will not be as Jim but in character as washed-up old comic Eddie Pearce, a character so loathsome and bigoted that he makes Davidson look like Eddie Izzard.

And he will be facing competition for laughs from a hard-hitting young black comedian, Earl T Laurence, played by Matt Blaize, who is a star of the London stand-up comedy circuit.

Other characters include a gay icon and a reality TV bimbo thrown together with the two comedians to perform at an Aids victims benefit concert.

Davidson and Blaize may seem as different as Chalky and cheese but the two have developed a mutual respect, though that was not always the case.

"I remember Jim on TV when I was a kid. Whenever he did that exaggerated 'Chalky' character voice I would get hell in the playground the next day," says Matt. The two met when playing different parts of the same venue, Davidson in the big room upstairs and Blaize in the small comedy club.

"Matt came up to me and gave me a stiff talking to about old school comedians, like young guys do. I said 'oh b****s' what do you know?'" says Jim.

"Then we actually got to know each other. I went to see his act and I did find him funny. It's as if he makes it up at that moment. Matt's stuff was genuine, from the heart, and I believed every word.

Insurance

"The fact that he had 150 people downstairs while I had 2,000 upstairs, that's going to change one day. He will be ringing me up saying 'do you want a support gig'. . . this is an insurance policy!"

When he needed a sparring partner for his play, Blaize was the natural choice but he got a baptism of fire, preparing for the play and honing his act in front of Davidson's audience as a surprise support act. "Matt's been working my lot and, I tell you, some of those front rows . . . you couldn't make one proper human out of the whole lot of them," says Jim.

East Ender Blaize has 10 years experience compared to the older comic's five decades in show business.

Asked why he put himself in front of a potentially hostile audience, he explains: "It is very easy to preach to the converted. What's controversial about saying things to people who want to hear it – try saying it to people who don't want to hear it. Yeah, but I haven't yet got Jim to perform in Brixton in front of 300 angry Rastafarians"

Blaize appreciates Davidson's craft, his timing and way he can work a crowd and Davidson responds: "Matt is a better comic than me when I started out. I just did joke after joke after joke.

"Cartoon black accent, silly Irish accent. Now I've been doing it for 45 years and I am a good performer technically." The comedian, who first found fame on TV talent show New Faces in the early 1970s, revealed that it was money and girls that fired his ambition.

"If I saw a good comic then, my first thought was 'I've got to be funnier than him', he says. "I have been a star not because of my ability to make people laugh but because of my ability to make other people money.

"But after New Faces I told my mum she would never have to work again, and she didn't . . . the lazy cow!"

Shocking

The play is about the clash of culture, generations and race but both men agree people should think about what makes them laugh. Matt says: "Comedy is going full circle with comedians prepared to say the most shocking things but that's OK because it is 'ironic'." Jim adds: "The difference between me and the character I play is that Eddie doesn't know what is offensive. I do. What we say on stage has consequences."

BLACK Country comedy act The Fizzogs – pictured from left Emma Rollason, Jacky Fellows, Sue Hawkins, James Collins and Deb Nicholls – present their new comedy show "May Contain Nuts", with comedienne Barbara Nice (from TV's Phoenix Nights) as MC. It will be performed at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre on March 5, The Old Post Office in Wednesbury on March 18, Oldbury's Barlow Playhouse on March 24 and the Hardwicke Theatre at Thorns Community College, Quarry Bank, on March 31 and April 1.

GIG REVIEWS

Tinie Tempah, 02 Academy, Birmingham

EXACTLY one year ago 22-year-old rapper Tinie Tempah released his debut single. Now the double Brit Award winner is showcasing sell-out gigs across the country.

As he bounced on to the stage at Birmingham's O2 Academy, the crowd, many sporting Tinie's signature spectacles, roared with excitement. Joined by a live band and DJ Charlsey, Tinie kicked off with his latest release, Wonderman, a collaboration with Ellie Goulding.

The effortless performance was memorising and from the outset it was clear to see that this was just the beginning of a career that many artists can only dream of. With the crowd hanging on Tinie's every word his modesty was humbling. He said: "This show in Birmingham has got to be the best yet. I love it and I love you all."

One girl was the envy of the room as she joined Tinie on stage to celebrate her 15th birthday.

He added: "If I could get you all on stage I would. It's because of you and your support that I am here today, I can't thank you enough.

The academy lit up when Tinie encouraged fans to take a picture as he performed his new single, Snap. It was a vision that the London-born rapper said he would remember forever.

The full-capacity crowd never tired of jumping along to an array of the star's chart hits.

After two encores, Tinie, who as toured with the likes of Usher, Pharrell Williams and Rhianna, ended the night with his single of the year, Pass Out.

Sarah Hazelwood

James Blunt, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton

JAMES Blunt can best be described as the Marmite of pop – you either love him or hate him. In Wolverhampton at least, he falls into the former category judging by the crowd reaction.

On his 37th birthday, the former Army officer launched into four straight songs before taking time out to chat to the sell-out crowd.

By the end of a set that included favourites including You're Beautiful and Goodbye My Lover, as well as songs from new album Some Kind of Trouble, he had the majority of his fans up in their seats dancing.

Blunt ended with 1973, but I still couldn't help but think of Gavin & Stacey's Uncle Bryn during the performance of Wisemen.

Mark Shipp

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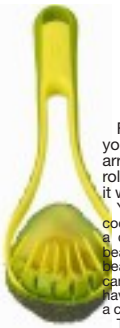

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There are a lot more things than casseroles that can be created in a slow cooker. The Slow Cooker Cookbook (Lakeland, £9.99) by Catherine Atkinson offers more than 200 recipes, ranging from pot roasts to soups, steamed puds and preserves. This handy hardback will help you get more out of your slow cooker.

Take the toil out of mashed potatoes with the Chef'n Potato Ricer (Lakeland, £29.99). All it takes is a squeeze on the non-slip handle and the ratchet system turns boiled spuds into creamy mash. Apparently it requires 65 per cent less effort than standard devices, simply smashing!

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It will soon be salad season and if you've ever found yourself getting into a mushy mess with an avocado then you will appreciate a new flexible friend, the Flexicado (Lakeland, £4.79) which will scoop out perfect slices after the Mexican pear has been halved and stoned.

When it comes to slicing, celebrity cook James Martin has joined forces with Stellar for a new range of stylish knives with stainless steel anti-slip handles. The Saturday Morning Kitchen chef's 12-knife collection covers all culinary eventualities and includes four Japanese style Santoku knives, plus a carving fork and sharpening steel. Prices range from £7.15 to £15.50 with a five piece block for £62. For stockists see the website www.stellarcookware.co.uk.

Celebrity chef James Martin using one of his Stellar knives, above, Chef'n Potato Ricer

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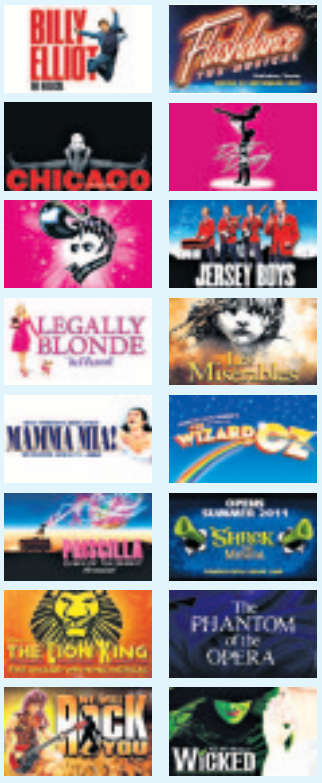
LONDON Theatre Breaks



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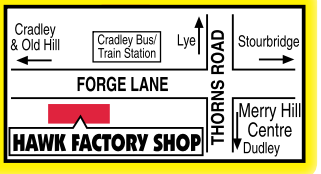

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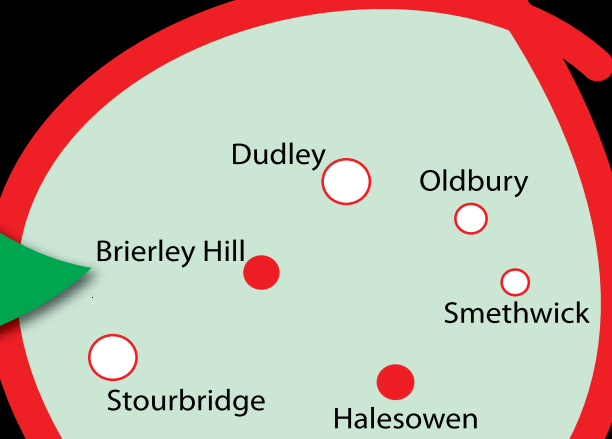

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Price is right for this cool dude Jessie

Jessie J – real name Jessica Cornish – from London is a songwriter (she penned Party In The USA for Miley Cyrus) and now a hugely popular performer in her own right

AFTER her explosive entry into the UK charts with debut single Do It Like A Dude, Jessie J has landed her first UK no1 with single Price Tag after the track selling an incredible 84,000 copies in just one week.

Jessie J has well and truly cemented herself as the UK's hottest new diva, with a swagger and a personality as big as her belting, multi-octave vocal. She will be strutting her stuff live on stage this spring including a big Saturday night gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy on April 2.

Already the winner of both the coveted Critics Choice Brit Award and BBC Sound Of 2011 Poll, an amazing double for a brand new artist, Island Records moved the release of Jessie J's debut album Who We Are a whole month forward for its release this week due to phenomenal public demand.

Dan the man for Wulfrun

DAN Clark is heading off on a UK tour and brings his first stand-up show for three years which calls in at Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall on April 7.

The star of BBC3's How Not to Live Your Life is promising to bring a warmer, more surreal show than his sitcom.

The 35-year-old (seen above) said: "It's a show that is split into two parts. The first half is stand-up, and the second is a mix of stand-up and songs."

His style of comedy has often been compared to Rik Mayall and Noel Fielding, the latter being a good friend of Clark's.

Clark first got into comedy in his teens, appearing in the legendary 'Heroes and Villains' episode of Only Fools and Horses.

He said: "I was one of the muggers Del and Rodney stumbled upon while dressed as Batman and Robin. "

AROUND THE SCENE . . . AROUND THE SCENE . . . AROUND THE SCENE

EAST END comic Micky Flanagan, the comedy star of last year's Royal Variety Performance, brings his razor-sharp observational wit to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on May 11 as one of the extra dates on his tour. Tickets are £17.50.

• • •

MOCK The Week regular Andy Parsons will be at Wolverhampton's Civic on April 8 and comedian and activist Mark Thomas has sold out the Slade Rooms on April 27. Other comedy highlights include wanna-be King of the Jungle Dom Joly at the Wulfrun Hall (May 10); comedy impressionist and sound effects man Terry Anderton, Slade Rooms (March 10); Simon Munnery, Slade Rooms (March 12) and Canadian Tom Stade at the Wulfrun Hall (March 15).

THE Rockin´ Berries show (part of their 50th anniversary tour) that was due to take place at the Wulfrun Hall next Saturday (12) has been cancelled. Refunds are available at point of purchase on return of tickets.

• • •

UP-AND-COMING soul singer-songwriter Liam Bailey, who has been championed by Amy Winehouse and signed to her Lioness label, will be supporting Plan B at his gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tonight (Thurs) and is supporting Jessie J at Birmingham O2 Academy on April 2.

• • •

GLOBAL, multi-million selling recording artist Charlie Landsborough releases his latest album Love In A Song on March 21 featuring classics such as Miss You Nights and and The Wind Beneath My Wings. Charlie shot to fame in 1995 and has won many country music awards. Love, In A Song brings a contemporary feel into the recordings. He will be embarking on a 14-date UK spring tour taking in Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre on Sunday, March 27

• • •

MARCH highlights at Bilston venue the Robin 2 include: Dutch 'symphonic' rockers Epica fronted by Simone Simons on March 10; 60s rockers The Pretty Things (12) Liverpool soul favourites The Real Thing (18) punk veterans Stiff Little Fingers (21) Britain's Got Talent sax man Julian Smith (26) I Wish I Was A Punk Rocker hit-maker Sandi Thom (27). For more details or to book call 01902 401211.

YOUR SEVEN-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING

TV listings start – page 32

Theatre and show round-up – page 31

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Find highbrow humour with Strauss' Maus

Another rural idyll features in Birmingham Royal Ballet's charming version of La Fille mal gardee, choreographed by Frederick Ashton, at the Hippodrome to Saturday.

Waltz king Johann Strauss II's comic operetta Die Fledermaus is staged at the Hippodrome in Welsh National Opera's new production directed by John Copley on Wednesday (March 9) and again on Friday (March 11). In between, and on March 12, WNO stage Verdi's full-blooded tragedy Il Trovatore.

Strauss' Die Fledermaus with Alan Opie as Frank and Jo Boag as Adele. *Picture, Clive Barda*

Revival of traditional country drama to wit

A revival of the witty 19th Century English country drama Cranford, based on the classic book by Elizabeth Gaskell, is at Wolverhampton Grand from Monday for one week, starring Ben Roberts, best known as Chief Inspector Derek Conway in TV cop drama The Bill.

He will be alongside film, stage and television actress Hildegard Neil (who is married to Brian Blessed), former Grange Hill actress Karen Ford, and familiar TV faces Jake Hendriks (Hollyoaks) and Judy Buxton (On The Up).

This 60-year-old stage adaptation of the novel, made popular again by the star-studded BBC TV version, lets the audience look into the lives of the market town's residents, including a gaggle of gossiping ladies, but their domestic bliss is threatened by the spectre of financial ruin.

The Grand hosts Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, featuring Keith Jack in the coat of many colours, with matinee and evening performances today (Thursday), Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Alicia Turrell and Hollyoaks' Jake Hendriks.

RACHEL KAVANAUGH directs Lucy Caldwell's Notes To Future Self, about the daughters of a 'New Age' globetrotter who return to Birmingham, at the Mac in Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston, to March 12 before touring.

SCIENCE Museum Live on Tour aims to persuade youngsters that science is fun with explosive demonstrations on stage at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Wednesday at 1.30 and 7pm.

THE ORCHESTRA of the Swan present Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit and His Friends, a fancy dress treat with music and stories presented by children's TV favourite Lorna Laidlaw and involving hundreds of local schoolchildren. It's on at Birmingham Town Hall at 11am on Saturday. West End star, successful recording artist and Radio 2 DJ Elaine Paige will be in concert at the city's Symphony Hall on Monday.

WOMEN'S theatre group Foursight from Wolverhampton have joined forces with a male theatre group from Portugal for the grotesque and poignant Pertencia, staged at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Icarus present their revamp of Hamlet at the Arena on March 10.

FOR COMEDY head to Wolverhampton, Richard Herring is in action on Saturday night at the Wulfrun Hall, Geordie comedienne Sarah Millican has sold out her Wulfrun show on Sunday and Shooting Stars' burger van philosopher Angelos Epithemiou will be at the same venue on Wednesday. Lenny Henry returns to the Black Country with his show looking back at his life via music, Cradle To Rave, at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thursday, March 10.

MORE comedy in Birmingham where on Saturday night, at the Crescent Theatre, Mrs Barbara Nice introduces the characters created by the Black Country's Fizzogg Theatre group.

MUSICAL blockbuster The Sound of Music, with Verity Rushworth and Jason Donovan, ends its run at Stoke's Regent Theatre on Saturday. Then Shaun The Sheep stars in his own music and dance extravaganza Shaun's Big Show at the Regent from March 9 to 13.

THE FIRST full Shakespeare production in the magnificent new Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford features Greg Hicks as King Lear. David Farr's production is on until April 2.

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Choice

A MILLION BOOKS FOR FREE: A CULTURE SHOW SPECIAL

BBC2, 7.30pm

In this digital age, is there still a place for the humble book – the type made before paper, rather than the ones you can download to an electronic device? If you still need convincing, maybe you could pick up a free copy of a favourite novel, memoir or poetry collection. To celebrate World Book Night, a million copies are to be handed out by 20,000 volunteers. Here, Andrew Graham-Dixon will be following the progress of this astounding venture.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 10.00 Rayland Dance Kitchen Secrets. (T) 10.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Football Focus. 11.00 Live Athletics. 12.30 Final Score. 12.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 12.50 All Nine Yard Wipeout. Interactive Game.

1.20 **Let's Dance for Comic Relief.** Joe Swash, Caroline Flack, Nathan Edmondson, Mimoza Brigitte Lee Nelson, Tayah Wilson, Claire Grogan, Chesney Hawkes and Lemar compete in the dance contest.

2.40 **The National Lottery: Secret Millions.** Two best friends take part in the Nightmare quiz show presented by Nick Knowles, hoping to win enough money to take a road trip to Nashville in America.

3.20 **Casualty.** Nim tries to run away and joins a woman living in Scarborough with her brother, while Jac has a crisis of confidence after the emergency department receives an unwelcome visit from Marjorie.

4.05 **Live at the Apollo.** With Rhod Gilbert and John Bishop. (R)

4.55 **BBC News Headlines.**

5.00 **Hunt for the Boy.** Including the Hunt for Amanda Dunsmore; Missing Boy; Lottery Update.

5.30 **The Football League Show** including highlights of Chelsea v Port Vale and Leicester City v Wolverhampton Wanderers.

6.15 BBC News

BBC2

9.00 Elevenses. 9.30 CBBC Escape to the Country. (R) 10.30 Film: Bicentennial Man (1999) Sci-fi drama, starring Robin Williams. 12.45 Into the Wild. (R) 2.15 Live Athletics: The European Indoor Championships. 3.00 Charlie Hunnam Reads Three. (R) 3.05 Flog It! (R)

3.55 **The Story of Glyndebourne.** The evolution of England's most famous opera house. (R)

4.50 **Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game.** Bruce Forsyth presents a look back at the classic Saturday night entertainment show. (R)

5.20 **A Million Decades: Great A Culture Show Special.** Andrew Graham-Dixon follows preparations for World Book Night.

5.50 **World Book Night Live from Glasgow's Ayr Wind Festival.** A short report from the literary event.

6.00 **The Books We Really Read: A Culture Show Special.** The essential ingredients of a book-selling novel.

6.30 **World Book Night Live from Both Literature Festival.**

7.00 **How Novelists Get to the Bottom of Crime: A Culture Show Special.** A celebration of the role of forensics in new writing in British fiction.

8.00 **World Book Night Live from Royal Festival Hall.**

9.00 **FILE: Bibliophiles' Revolution.** (2009) Pioneers, Utopias, with Matthew Goode, Ben Whishaw, Hayley Atwell and Emma Thompson.

10.30 BBC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 11.00 Film: State Fears (1947) Moon drama, starring Burt Lancaster. 12.40 Close.

ITV1

6.00 GMTV. Mid GMTV. 9.25 GMTV. 9.25 Coronation Street. 10.00 This Morning. Saturday Kitchen. 12.00 ITV News; Weather. 12.05 Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) Comedy starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. 2.40 Film: Goodbye Dick 2. Monsters Unleashed. (2010) Comedy adventure sequel, with Sarah Michelle Gellar. 3.55 Regional Programmes. 4.00 ITV News; Weather.

4.10 **How You've Been Framed!**

4.35 **Harry Hill's TV Burp.** Comprehension of the week's small screen highlights.

5.05 **Auntie Dee's Pack to Britain.** Last week's stunning family reunion, voted in for a new set of challenges, with the hosts aims hoping to hold onto as much of their all cause £100,000 as possible.

5.40 **Who Do You Think You Are?** Model, painter and decorator, a sports centre manager and an unemployed single go on their place. Family detectives Nicholas Parsons and Dominic Carter.

6.30 **FILE: The World Is Not Enough.** (1999) Spy adventure, with Pierce Brosnan, Robert Carlyle, Sophie Marceau and Robbie Coltrane.

8.30 **ITV Royal Weather.**

8.40 **FILE: The World Is Not Enough.** (1999) Concluded.

8.50 The Cube: Celebrity Special. (R) 9.55 The Bank. ITV News Headlines. 10.15 Coronation Street. (R) 10.45 ITV Nightscreen. 12.15 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.00 Sell Mell. (R) 6.30 The Media. (R) 6.45 Walk The Media. (R) 7.00 Superbike: World Championship 2011. (R) 8.00 The Gadget Show The Morning Line. 9.00 Tic Friends. (R) 9.30 Tic Friends. (R) 10.00 Tic Friends. (R) 10.30 Tic Friends. Jackie J. 11.00 Tic Glee. 12.00 Tic Sport. Bright Philharmonic. 12.30 Tic Jennifer Lopez: Video Exclusive. 12.45 Tic The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.00 Tic The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.30 Tic Channel 4 Racing. 2.30 The Great Escape Club. 3.00 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 3.30 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 4.00 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 4.30 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R)

5.00 **The Political Girl.** By Nicola Sturgeon of the Scottish National Party.

5.30 **Obsessed Villains.**

6.00 **Hiking Man.** Ophelia Bio discusses her view that religion is time-consuming.

7.00 **River Cottage Diary.** Hugh-Fearnley Whittingstall outlines his self-sourced diet. (R)

8.00 **Seven Ages of Britain.** The first page, between 5,000BC and 1,000BC. (R)

9.00 **FILE: Taken.** (2008) Premiere. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson, Famke Janssen and Maggie Grace.

10.50 **FILE: Flight of the Phoenix.** (2004) Action adventure, starring Dennis Quaid.

12.50 Film: Lady Vengeance. (2005) Thriller, starring Yeong-ae Lee. 4.00 Glen Of Tic. (R) 5.00 Without a Trace. (R) 6.00 Privileged. (R) 6.30 Wogan's Perfect Resort. Live Coverage.

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.00 Zoo Days. (R) 9.30 How Do They Do It? (R) 10.00 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.00 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.00 Film: Ride Clear of Diablo. (1954) Revenge Western, starring Audie Murphy. 2.00 Film: Fire-creek. (1968) Western, starring James Stewart. 4.00 Film: Superman II. (1980) Comedy adventure sequel, with Christopher Reeve.

6.00 News.

6.30 **11 CBS.** An explosion at a manufacturers leads to a murder investigation. (R)

7.30 **CSI: Miami's Greatest.** Jackpot winner commits suicide. (R)

8.30 **CSI: Miami.** Cutting-edge crime-drama action to tell you all the conjectures, and apparently causes the death of a bystander – but the other CSIs believe she is innocent and set out to clear her name. (R)

9.30 **CSI: NY.** Part two of two. More convinced the investigation into the murder of Chief Carver is over and begins to suspect Carver himself is the killer. Starring Gary Sinise.

10.30 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** An old homicide case is reopened. (R)

11.30 **Forensic Files.** A necklace helps to identify a murder victim.

12.00 Supercopters. 1.00 Storm Chasers: Chase Tour. (R) 1.30 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 2.00 Hench Hellers. (R) 2.30 The Architect's Show. (R) 3.00 Thomas & Friends. (R) 3.30 Everyone Racing On. (R)

Digital

ITV2

6.00 Film: One Man's Hero (1999) Civil War drama, starring Tom Berenger. 7.55 Love Soup. (R) 8.00 Celebrity Juice. 8.55 Film: Lovely Like Maybe. (1997)

ITV3

6.55 Rugby: Wales v England. 8.55 Inspector Morse. 4.04 Rosemary & Thyme. 5.05 Midsomer Murders. 6.04 Murder in Suburbia.

ITV4

6.55 Rugby: Wales v England. 8.55 Film: Escape to Witch Mountain. (1975) 10.04 Film: Escape to Witch Mountain. (1975) 12.04 Film: Double Platinum. Music Movie. 1.50 Ultimate Force. 2.50 Film: Unleashed. (2005)

BBC THREE

2.04 Top Gear. 4.04 Great TV Makeover. 4.04 Russell Howard's Good News Extra. 4.35 Film: Snowboard. (2004) 6.10 Family Guy.

BBC FOUR

2.04 Islands: Great Britain. 3.00 The Girl. The Guardian: Britain. 4.00 The Killing. 10.35 How TV Ruined Your Life. 11.35 Heaven and the BBC.

5

12.35 Holyoaks. 1.04 Little Britain. 1.30 Friends. 4.04 Glee. 2.00 The Big Bang Theory. 2.30 Friends. 3.00 Drama Group. Growing up Gracie. 10.00 The Graham Norton Show. 11.10 Both Sides. 11.40 Film: Broken. (2006)

FILM 4

3.30 Comic Con Quickies. (1999) 4.55 Kitty: sidekick's diary. (2010) Comedy about a Kitty's daughter's biological father, and his closest friend. He turns out to be a bunch of little cartoons. Female Boxers. (2009) starring Mikael Persbrandt and Trine Dyrholm. 4.04 The X Effect: How to Believe. (2011) Paranormal investigators Minder and Goody come out of retirement. 6.00 Film: Unleashed. (2005) Martial arts drama, starring Jet Li. 8.00 Film: All the Boys Love Mandy Lane. (2006)

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Choice

COUNTRY HOUSE RESCUE

Channel 4, 9pm

Hugh Bonneville's Britons help decorate the garage on the set of the UK's most beautiful but increasingly dilapidated historic buildings. In this second series, As well as the first-time owners of stately homes and lovable Patti Wax on set designs about changing the fortunes of these places, not only by making them more friendly but also by educating their owners – some have little business experience and need advice on how to get the best out of their properties. Among those shall be helping this series are the Gaudreaux of Kedleston and the Marquis of Normanby.

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital

the pulse

Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Week of Reacty? 11.30 Cash in the Attic. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out. BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Smoking and the Bandits: Panorama. 9.00 Motorway Cops. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Mic Brown's Boys. 11.05 Late Kick Off. 11.35 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.25 The Apprentice USA: Weatherview. 1.50 Sign Zone. Silk. (R) 2.55 Imagine. (R) 3.55 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnostic Murder. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Nature's Top 40. (R) 3.00 Flog It! 3.45 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 4.30 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Royal Upstairs Downstairs. 7.00 Parents Under Pressure. 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Raymond Blanc: Mission Impossible. 9.00 When Teenage Meets Old Age. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.20 Antiland Parish. (R) 12.50 BBC News. 9.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 9.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Ladies of Coronation Street. 8.00 Law & Order: UK. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 New Homes from Hell 2009. (R) 11.35 River Monsters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 UEFA Champions League Weekly. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Treacle People. (R) 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freddy Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Supernanny USA. 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 Relocation: Phil Down Under. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 The TV Book Club. 12.30 Flint: Death Drums Along the River. (1963) Murder mystery remake, starring Richard Todd. 2.05 Cookery School. 2.30 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thoughts. 8.00 Gok's Clothes Roadshow. 9.00 Hectors Madly Impossible. 10.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 10.30 Big C. 11.05 Face/Off. (R) 12.15 UK & Ireland Poker Tour. 1.15 FIS Freestyle World Ski Championships. (R) 1.10 Freesports on 4. (R) 2.10 The Grill. (R) 2.35 MOTV Boxing Weekly. 3.05 Powerboating. 3.35 Britain's Favourite Yacht Race. (R) 4.00 Triathlon ITU World Championship Series Magazine. (R) 4.30 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.15 Best Grylls: Born Survivor. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 12.05 Magic in Moments. (R) 12.30 5 News. 12.45 House. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.15 Film: The Royal Scandal. (2001) Sherlock Holmes mystery, starring Matt Frewer. 5.00 News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Old TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Extraordinary Dogs: New Update. 8.00 Stansted: The Inside Story. A private jet undergoes a safety inspection. 9.00 5 News at 9. 9.30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A man falls to his death from a casino balcony. 10.00 CSI: Miami. A consultant is found dead in the boot of a car. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.50 SuperCasino. 3.55 Your Sport. (R) 9.05 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 9.50 Nick's Quest. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Week of Reacty? 11.30 Cash in the Attic. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 Silk. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Neighbourhood Watched. 11.20 Girls Behind Bars; Weatherview. 12.25 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 12.55 Human Planet. (R) 1.55 When Teenage Meets Old Age. (R) 2.55 The Foods That Make Billions. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnostic Murder. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Nature's Top 40. (R) 3.00 Flog It! 3.45 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 4.30 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Royal Upstairs Downstairs. 7.00 Wonders of the Universe. (R) 8.00 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best. 8.00 Horizon: Predictions in your Backyard. 10.00 Inbox TV: Ruined Your Life. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.20 BBC News. 9.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 9.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Ladies of Coronation Street. 8.00 Law & Order: UK. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: The Big Trace. (1988) Comedy, starring Craig Ferguson. 12.10 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.15 Crossing Jordan. 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Treacle People. (R) 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freddy Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Supernanny USA. 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.15 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.25 Flint: Cottage Bites. (R) 12.35 Film: The Long Memory. (1952) Thriller, starring John Mills. 2.05 Cookery School. 2.30 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thoughts. 8.00 Gok's Clothes Roadshow. 9.00 Hectors Madly Impossible. 10.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 10.30 Big C. 11.05 Face/Off. (R) 12.15 UK & Ireland Poker Tour. 1.15 FIS Freestyle World Ski Championships. (R) 1.10 Freesports on 4. (R) 2.10 The Grill. (R) 2.35 MOTV Boxing Weekly. 3.05 Powerboating. 3.35 Britain's Favourite Yacht Race. (R) 4.00 Triathlon ITU World Championship Series Magazine. (R) 4.30 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.15 Best Grylls: Born Survivor. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 12.05 Magic in Moments. (R) 12.30 5 News. 12.45 House. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.15 Film: The Royal Scandal. (2001) Sherlock Holmes mystery, starring Matt Frewer. 5.00 News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Old TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Extraordinary Dogs: New Update. 8.00 Stansted: The Inside Story. A private jet undergoes a safety inspection. 9.00 5 News at 9. 9.30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A man falls to his death from a casino balcony. 10.00 CSI: Miami. A consultant is found dead in the boot of a car. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.50 SuperCasino. 3.55 Your Sport. (R) 9.05 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 9.50 Nick's Quest. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Week of Reacty? 11.30 Cash in the Attic. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 The Boat That Guy Built; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Waterloo Road. 9.00 MasterChef. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draw. 10.45 Film 2011 with Claudia Winkleman. National Lottery Update. 11.25 Film: The Killing Fields. (1984) Weatherview. 1.45 Sign Zone: Country Tracks. (R) 2.40 Toughest Place to Be a Paramedic. (R) 3.40 The Foods That Make Billions. (R) 4.40 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 The Hairy Bikers. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Nature's Top 40. (R) 3.00 Flog It! 3.45 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 4.30 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Royal Upstairs Downstairs. 7.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 8.00 Great British Railways. 8.30 Secret Weapons. 9.00 The Price of Life. 10.00 Have I Got Old News for You. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 12.20 Timeshift: The Modern Age of Coach Travel. 1.20 BBC News. 9.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 9.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 UEFA Champions League Live. Tottenham Hotspur v AC Milan (Kick-off 7.45pm). 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 UEFA Champions League: Extra Time. 11.35 Police, Camera, Action! (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 Film: Timecop: The Berlin Decision. (2003) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Jason Scott Lee. 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Treacle People. (R) 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freddy Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Supernanny USA. 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 Country House Rescue. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Flint: Drums Along the Mohawk. (1939) Historical drama, starring Henry Fonda. 2.05 Cookery School. 2.30 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thoughts. 8.00 Beauty and the Beast: Ugly Face of Prejudice. 9.00 Jamie's Dream School. 10.00 The Model Agency. 11.05 Shameless. (R) 12.10 Music on 4: 4Music Favourites: Jessie J. (R) 12.40 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Spotlight. 12.55 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Session. (R) 1.10 Life, Death and Suffer Story. 1.20 One Under. 1.45 This Is Me. (R) 1.50 Frontier House. (R) 2.45 Without a Trace. (R) 3.30 Hill Street Blues. (R) 4.20 Reaper. (R) 5.10 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.35 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Build a New Life in the Country. (R) 12.05 Magic in Moments. (R) 12.30 5 News. 12.45 House. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Rough Guide to Beaches. (R) 3.20 Film: Close Friends. (2006) 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Old TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Starlight: For the Children: News Update. 8.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) Moved at 9. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. (R) 10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.55 Poker. 12.55 SuperCasino. 3.55 Your Sport. (R) 9.05 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 9.50 Nick's Quest. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Week of Reacty? 11.30 Cash in the Attic. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Bang Goes the Winter Weather Special. 9.00 Comic Relief: Famous, Rich and in the Slums. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 This Week; Skiing Weatherview. 12.25 Sign Zone: Smoking and the Bandits: Panorama. (R) 12.55 Countryfile. (R) 1.55 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 2.55 The Foods That Make Billions. (R) 3.55 Rip Off Britain. 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnostic Murder. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Nature's Top 40. (R) 3.00 Flog It! 3.45 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 4.30 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Royal Upstairs Downstairs. 7.00 Britain By Bike. (R) 7.30 Antiland Parish. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Gardeners' World. 9.00 Hidden Treasures of Britain. 9.30 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show; Weather. 11.50 ICC Cricket World Cup Extra. 12.20 Film: The Man with the Golden Arm. (1956) Drama, starring Frank Sinatra. 2.15 BBC News. 9.15 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 9.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Children's Hospital. 9.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Benidorm. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Cube. (R) 11.35 Take Me Out. (R) 12.25 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.45 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Treacle People. (R) 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freddy Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Supernanny USA. 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 The Restoration Man. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Flint: Cottage Bites. (R) 12.15 Flint: Sea of Sand. (1958) Second World War adventure, starring Richard Attenborough. 2.05 Cookery School. 2.30 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thoughts. 8.00 Relocation, Relocation. 9.00 Love Thy Neighbour. 10.00 10 O'Clock Live. 11.05 Friday Night Dinner. (R) 11.35 The Ricky Gervais Show. 12.05 Music on 4: CTRL Mix. 12.40 Music on 4: On Track. (R) 1.10 Mudcon 4: The Crunch. (R) 2.00 The People's Supermarket. (R) 2.55 Dispatches: Selling Off Britain. (R) 3.55 Without a Trace. (R) 9.30 Reaper. (R) 5.20 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.05 Magic in Moments. (R) 12.30 News. 12.45 House. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Rough Guide to Beaches. (R) 3.20 Film: Lies and Deception. (2005) Thriller, starring Madchen Amick. 5.00 News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Old TV. Daily magazine show, hosted by Kate Walsh and Matt Johnson. 7.00 News. 7.30 Live: UEFA Europa League Football. A last-16 first-leg encounter. 10.15 Film: The Longest Yard. (2005) An imprisoned quarterback is given the task of forming a team of inmates to play American football against the guards. Comedy remake, starring Adam Sandler and Chris Rock. 12.20 SuperCasino. 3.55 Your Sport. (R) 9.05 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 9.35 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Heir Hunters. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Week of Reacty? 11.30 Cash in the Attic. BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Comic Relief: Girl on Wire; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.35 Oz. (R) 9.00 New Tricks. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draw. 11.35 Film: The Good Shepherd. (2006) Spy drama, with Matt Damon. Weatherview. 2.15 Sign Zone: South Riding. (R) 3.15 Horizon: How to Mend a Broken Heart. (R) 4.15 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnostic Murder. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. 2.30 Nature's Top 40. (R) 3.00 Flog It! 3.45 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 4.30 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Royal Upstairs Downstairs. 7.00 Britain By Bike. (R) 7.30 Antiland Parish. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Gardeners' World. 9.00 Hidden Treasures of Britain. 9.30 Inside Out. 10.00 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show; Weather. 11.50 ICC Cricket World Cup Extra. 12.20 Film: The Man with the Golden Arm. (1956) Drama, starring Frank Sinatra. 2.15 BBC News. 9.15 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 9.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 House Gift. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Chase. (R) 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Children's Hospital. 9.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Benidorm. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Cube. (R) 11.35 Take Me Out. (R) 12.25 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.45 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sell Mell. (R) 6.30 The Treacle People. (R) 6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freddy Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Frasier. (R) 8.35 According to Jim. (R) 9.00 Supernanny USA. 10.00 The Good Wife. (R) 10.55 Gok's Clothes Roadshow. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Flint: Cottage Bites. 12.20 Flint: The Desert Rats. (1953) Second World War adventure, starring Richard Burton. 2.05 Cookery School. 2.30 Countdown. 3.55 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thoughts. 8.00 Extras? 8.00 Relocation, Relocation. Phil Down Under. 8.00 Embarrassing Bodies. 10.00 Friday Night Dinner. 10.35 Ricky Tube: Animal Madness. (R) 11.00 10 O'Clock Live. (R) 12.05 Music on 4: 4Music Favourites: Alexis Jordan. (R) 1.10 Music on 4: CTRL Mix. (R) 1.40 Mudcon 4: Play Liam Bailey. 1.55 My Name Is: Earl. (R) 2.55 Modern Toss. (R) 3.00 Flint: The Man with One Red Shoe. (1985) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks. 9.30 Reaper. (R) 5.00 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 8.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.05 Magic in Moments. (R) 12.30 News. 12.45 House. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Flint: The Long Shot. (2004) Drama, starring Jule Benz. 5.00 News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Old TV. Daily magazine show, hosted by Kate Walsh and Matt Johnson. 7.00 News. 7.30 Vets in Action. (R) News Update. 8.00 Ice Road Truckers. Moved. 9.00 The Mentalist. 10.00 Law & Order. 11.00 NCIS. (R) 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCasino. 3.55 Motorsport Unlimited. 9.20 Royal Navy Caribbean Patrol. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

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SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	13.05	15.45
UNKNOWN (12A) FLS		
ALL WEEK	18.05	20.40
PAUL (15)		
ALL WEEK		16.10
WEST IS WEST (15) FLS		
ALL WEEK	18.20	20.45
GNOMEO AND JULIET 3D (U)		
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	12.30	14.20
RANGO (PG) FLS		
FRIDAY, MONDAY TO THURSDAY	15.50 18.10	20.30
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	10.50 13.15 15.40 18.00	20.20
ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (12A) FLS		
FRIDAY, MONDAY TO THURSDAY	15.55 18.20	20.50
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY	13.30 15.55 18.20	20.50
BIG MOMMAS (PG)		
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY		11.10
KIDS CLUB - SATURDAY AND SUNDAY		
TANGLED (PG)		11.00
YOGI BEAR (U)		10.40

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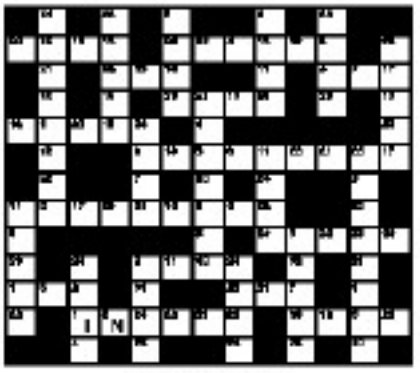
Brain Gym

No.106

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different number of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	I
2	
3	
4	
5	N
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Z	B	S	J	Y	I	O	K	M	A	C	H	E	
X	F	Q	G	L	R	V	N	D	P	U	T	W	

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WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

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Double Crossword

Choose either the quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Have pain and nature's main replacement as remark (6,7)
8. Rat smile never making (10)
9. You apparently earn when a lay (3,3)
10. Try mind to get the motivate (6)
12. Unranked in a canary (6)
14. Nothing doing? (10)
15. Endlessly use a lawn (10)
16. Uncaged from the rocklike dynamic being vitamin (6)
20. Jumpin our tennis scene (6)
22. Aide a mean takeaway a main (3,1,7)

Down

1. Was against a time nail area (8)
3. A polygenic time amount (6)
4. Liberal region can mingle room (6)
5. It sounds highly unnatural (8)
6. Life's tantamount in the long run (3)
7. Lavishly light (8)
11. Taught it help you to sleep again? (8)
13. Lie way have the will to nonlie things (8)
15. Co-ban join action (6)
17. Unlimited and insanity perhaps (6)
18. Partners not working in your right (6)
21. Slow mode liquor (4)

Quick Clues:

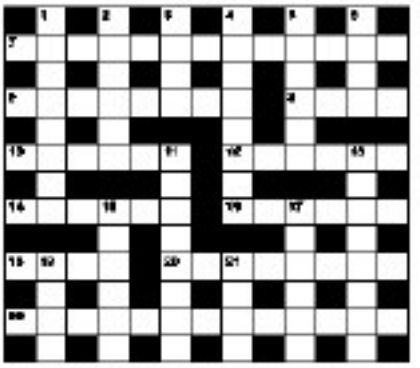
Across

7. Understanding (10)
8. Lilac (4)
9. Alarm (9)
10. Unstructured measurement (6)
12. Source test (6)
14. Dawdle (6)
16. Unusually (6)
18. Suitor (6)
20. Partner (6)
22. Public office (6)

Down

1. Summation (8)
2. Chosen (6)
3. Hasty (8)
4. Pilot (8)
5. Climb (10)
6. Indigent (10)
11. Immediately (8)
13. Magnetic (8)
15. Representation (6)
17. Listening related (6)
19. Whirlpool (4)
21. Simplicity (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

6	5		9	3			2	7
	3				4		5	
		8	7			6		
9	6				3			2
		7		9		8		
5			4					
		2			9	7		5
	4		3				8	
5					2		6	1

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is A. Answers: Wales, Whale, Sea Mammals, Ocean, Whales, Sea Animals, Water, Blue, Mammals, Sea.

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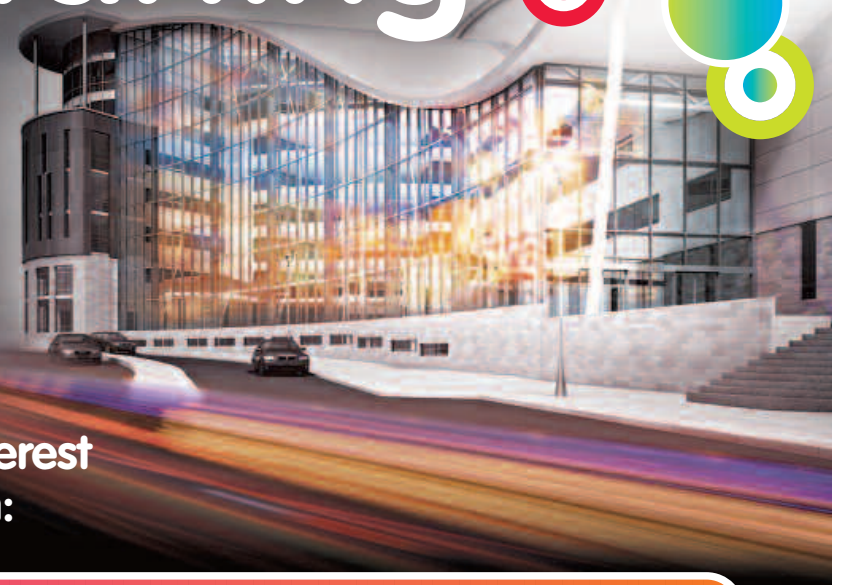

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Top guide for West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton and

Old laundry earmarked for £5.8m development

A £5.8 million housing development is on the cards for the site of a landmark former Smethwick laundry.

The former Stanhope Laundry Services was based in Stanhope Road for more than a century before it folded in 2004. Sandwell Council now wants to build affordable homes there.

The development will include 24 two-bed flats and 15 three and four-bed houses.

Ward Councillor Roger Horton has backed the plans.

He said: "Everybody will be pleased with it I think.

"They demolished the laundry a few years ago and this site sits in the middle of many homes.

"It's better to build on it sooner rather than later and add to the residences already in the area."

An artist's impression of the homes

Shelved

A number of proposals had been put forward for the landmark laundry site, after the business folded after more than a century in March 2004.

More than 300 residents first opposed plans to convert the former laundry into a community centre.

And a "flat pack" style housing development revealed in 2008 was also shelved by council bosses after they held talks with German specialists called Streif.

They supply part-finished homes where people can buy the basic structure for a home and then it is delivered by them to a site to be erected.

But the authority reverted to a more recognisable housing scheme.

The vacant site opposite Thimblemill Brook will need to de-contaminated before construction begins, due its previous industrial use.

Laundry bosses blamed the decision to shut the plant on planning restrictions, which prevented them from carrying out extensions.

The land for the development was acquired using the Housing Act Compulsory Purchase Orders and with regeneration body Urban Living funds.

Hospital staff to get first choice

A WEST Bromwich pub is set to be transformed into bedsit flats for hospital workers.

The derelict Jolly Nailer pub, on Lyndon Road, has been bought and will be given a refit worth up £75,000.

The new bedsits, which include eight single rooms and two double rooms, will have a communal kitchen, dining and sitting areas. The new owners, Bexgroup Ltd, plan to offer first option to Sandwell General and Hallam Street Hospital staff on the new flats.

Steven Gee, a director of Bexforce Ltd, added: "It's been empty for a while and we thought the pub site's best use would be to help the hospital workers.

"We will be offering them first use after we've finished the refit, which could cost between £50,000-£75,000."

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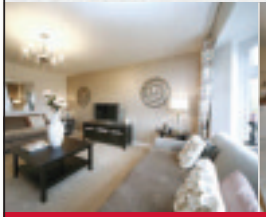

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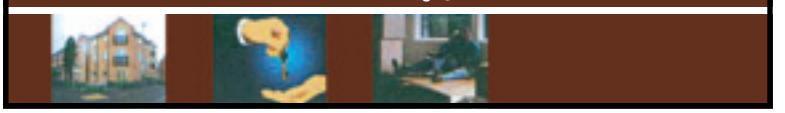

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OLDBURY
HARBORNE ROAD
Well presented traditional style character semi detached residence with front views overlooking Warley Woods. Accommodation comprises reception hall, attractive spacious through lounge comprising two lounge areas, extended spacious breakfast kitchen, internal lobby area with downstairs walk-in shower room and downstairs guest wc, three bedrooms, spacious first floor family bathroom/wc, side storage area, rear garden with generous flagstone patio, driveway to front. The property also benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing (where specified) and alarm. Viewing is highly recommended.
£189,950

OLDBURY
BROADWAY CROFT
Substantially extended well presented semi detached residence located a cul-de-sac and comprising reception hall, generous 30 ft through lounge, spacious fitted breakfast kitchen, three double bedrooms, stylish re-fitted first floor bathroom/wc with walk-in shower, additional stylish separate wc, attractive landscaped rear garden, integral garage with garage loft storage and full-width block paved driveway, gas central heating and double glazing. Viewing is highly recommended.
£187,500

OLDBURY
SUNNYBANK ROAD
Well presented traditional style character semi-detached residence located in a popular residential road and comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, downstairs guest wc, dining room, lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, modern style first floor bathroom with shower, rear garden, side garage, driveway, gas central heating and double glazing (where specified). Viewing is highly recommended.
£169,950

BEARWOOD/SMETHWICK
GALTON ROAD
Well presented traditional style freehold terraced residence located in this pleasant neighbourhood within easy reach of both Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods comprising enclosed porch, entrance hallway, through lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, utility area, down stairs shower room/wc, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc, front and rear gardens, central heating (where specified), double glazing (where specified). This property benefits from comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand easy access to Birmingham City Centre.
£162,500

QUINTON
PITMAN ROAD
Traditional style semi-detached residence located in this popular residential neighbourhood just off Quinton Road West comprising covered side entrance, reception hall, spacious through lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, first floor family bathroom/wc, rear garden, block paved drive t front, side garage, double glazing and central heating. No upward chain.
£154,950

OLDBURY
BROOK ROAD
Delightfully presented spacious mid terraced residence comprising entrance hall, spacious through lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen (with built-in oven and hob), three bedrooms, first floor bathroom, separate wc, rear garden, off road parking to front, double glazing, gas central heating and alarm. Viewing is recommended.
£124,950

OLDBURY
HAGLEY ROAD WEST
Superbly presented spacious two-storey duplex apartment conveniently located on the main Hagley Road West, Quinton. First storey comprises feature conservatory, L-shaped reception hall with built-in storage, modern style fitted kitchen, spacious attractive dining area and lounge. Second storey comprises two double bedrooms, modern style re-fitted shower room, separate wc, gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking for two cars and attractive garden having pergolas and split-level deck. Internal viewing is essential.
£116,500

OLDBURY
FARM ROAD
Well presented traditional style mid terraced residence in popular road comprising enclosed porch, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom/wc with walk-in shower, three double bedrooms and front and rear gardens. The property also benefits from having double glazing and feature gas fuel stove. Internal viewing is highly recommended.
£112,500

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TITFORD ROAD
Delightfully presented luxury ground floor apartment located in the exclusive 'The Wharf' Development built by Bellway Homes. This attractive apartment comprises central reception hall with built-in storage, lounge with open plan fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom/wc with shower. The property also benefits from having storage heating, double glazing, security intercom and residents' parking. Viewing is highly recommended.
£500 PCM

NORTHFIELD
WOLSELEY HOUSE
Delightfully presented spacious modern second floor apartment located in attractive communal grounds between Northfield and Longbridge comprising L-shaped reception hall, attractive spacious lounge/fitted kitchen/diner, double bedroom, modern bathroom/wc with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, feature Juliet balcony, loft access, intercom system and secure gated allocated parking. Internal viewing is essential.
£89,995

OLDBURY
HAGLEY ROAD WEST
Delightfully presented refurbished semi-detached residence conveniently located on Hagley Road West comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, attractive lounge, modern spacious extended fitted kitchen/diner with additional breakfast area, rear/side verandah, three bedrooms, modern tastefully refurbished bathroom/wc with shower, side garage, rear garden, driveway to front, gas central heating and double glazing. Internal viewing essential.
£695 PCM

QUINTON
WEST BOULEVARD
Traditional style terraced residence comprising porch, entrance hall, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, first floor family bathroom/wc with shower, front and rear gardens and double glazing. Viewing recommended
£550 pcm

OLDBURY
OLIVE MOUNT
Deceptively spacious recently refurbished end terraced family residence comprising entrance hall, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, downstairs bathroom/wc (with shower), three good sized bedrooms, first floor shower room, front and side gardens. The property also benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing. Viewing recommended.
£550 PCM

ROWLEY REGIS
BRICKHOUSE ROAD
Superbly presented refurbished unfurnished semi detached residence comprising reception hall, two good sized reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, generous covered side entrance with brick built storage shed, two double bedrooms, master bedroom having fitted wardrobes, modern re-fitted first floor bathroom/wc, rear garden, driveway to front, gas central heating and double glazing. Viewing is highly recommended.
£535 pcm

NETHERTON
ROCK HAVEN
Delightfully presented modern first floor apartment comprising entrance hall, open plan lounge/kitchen area, two bedrooms, modern bathroom/wc (with power shower), double glazing, electric heating, parking space at rear of property and security intercom system. Viewing is highly recommended. Available now.
£450 PCM

ROWLEY REGIS
OLDBURY ROAD
Well presented, unfurnished, self contained, first floor apartment in a prime location comprising: Private entrance to apartment, spacious lounge, spacious kitchen, one double bedroom, bathroom/wc, gas central heating, double glazing (where specified). Viewing recommended.
£425 pcm

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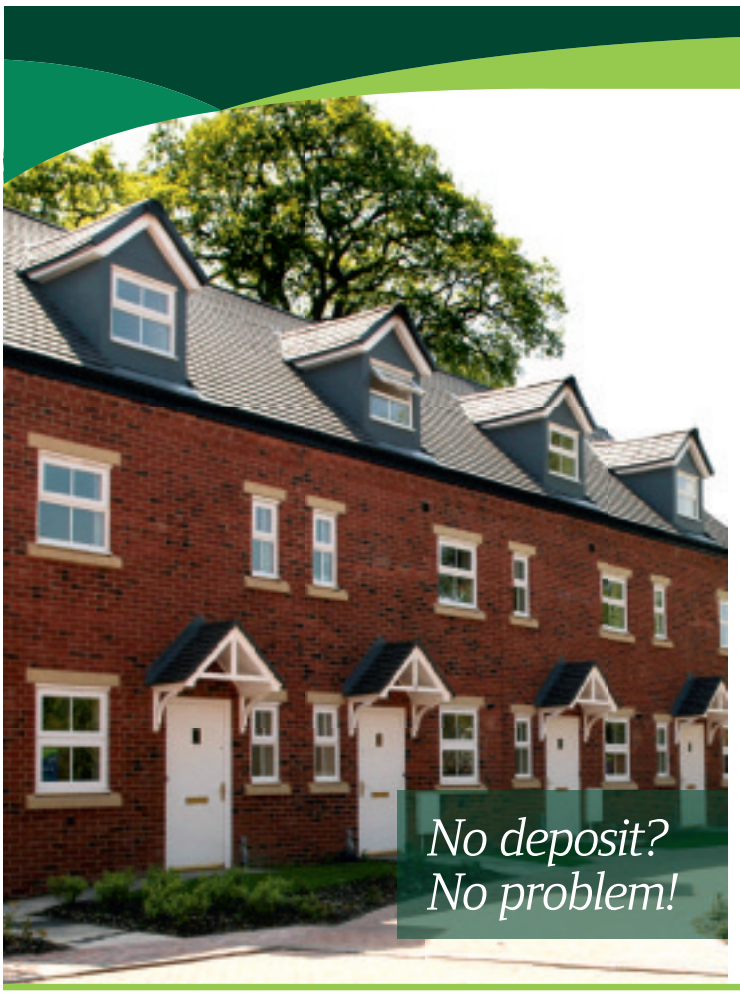

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TIPTON
ELIZABETH WALK

★ Extended three bedroom family home
★ Lounge/ dining room and extended family room
★ Breakfast kitchen and utility
★ Downstairs shower room and first floor bathroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Garage and block paved driveway
★ Front and rear gardens

£174,995

TIPTON
BLOOMFIELD ROAD

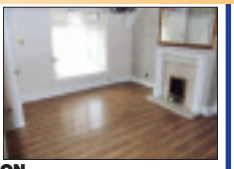
★ Three storey, three double bedroomed end terrace
★ Lounge, diningkitchen, study, En suite to master bedroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Detached garage
★ Summer house with a 4 seated spa pool
★ Front and rear gardens

£159,995

TIPTON
BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD

★ Three bedroom detached
★ Lounge and dining room
★ Kitchen
★ Downstairs shower room
★ First floor family bathroom
★ Gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Off road parking, garage and rear garden

Was £199,995 NOW £190,000



TIPTON
HAWTHORN ROAD

★ Three bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge
★ Breakfast kitchen
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Off road parking ★ Rear garden

£93,000

OLDBURY
TIVIDALE ROAD

★ Three bedroom mid terrace
★ Lounge with archway through to dining room
★ Kitchen and utility area
★ Downstairs WC and upstairs family bathroom
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
★ Off road parking to the rear
★ Rear garden

£135,000

TIPTON
KIRKHAM WAY

★ Three bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge/dining room
★ Conservatory and kitchen
★ En suite to master bedroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Block paved driveway and garage
★ Rear garden

£139,995

TIPTON
DIANE CLOSE

★ Extended three bedroom detached on corner plot
★ Lounge/dining room
★ Sitting room and study/bedroom four
★ Extended kitchen
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Block paved driveway for several vehicles and garage
★ Side and rear gardens

Was £159,995 NOW £155,000

WEDNESBURY
WILLINGSWORTH ROAD

★ Two bedroom semi detached bungalow
★ Lounge and kitchen ★ Bathroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired
★ Garage and driveway
★ Front and rear gardens

£134,995

TIPTON
NEW STREET

★ Extended three bedroom end terrace
★ Lounge and sitting room
★ Upstairs family bathroom
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
★ Off road parking to front and garage to rear
★ Rear garden

£94,995

TIPTON
BENBECK GROVE

★ Four bedroom modern detached
★ Two reception rooms
★ Downstairs WC and upstairs bathroom
★ En suite to master bedroom
★ Garage and off road parking
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
★ Rear garden

£219,995

TIPTON
PLOTS 1 & 2 MYRTLE TERRACE

★ Three bedroom detached houses
★ Lounge/diner
★ Kitchen with appliances
★ En suite to master bedroom
★ Family bathroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Front and rear gardens
★ Fully fitted alarm system

£159,995

TIPTON
ANNE GROVE

★ Three bedroom extended semi detached
★ Lounge/dining room
★ Extended kitchen
★ Double glazing (where specified)
★ Garage and driveway
★ Front and rear gardens

WAS £138,950 NOW £132,950

OLDBURY
SALOP STREET

★ Three bedroom detached
★ Lounge
★ Dining kitchen
★ Downstairs WC
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Off road parking
★ Rear garden

NOW £159,995

TIPTON
SHINGLERS DRIVE

★ Three storey semi detached
★ Three/four bedrooms
★ Lounge, kitchen diner and downstairs cloakroom
★ En suite to master bedroom plus family bathroom
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
★ Garage and off road parking
★ Rear garden

NOW £140,000

WANTED

A two bedroom house on Bridgemere Estate.

BUYER WAITING

If you can help call 0121 520 2255

TIPTON
POWIS AVENUE

★ Extended three bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge/dining room
★ Conservatory
★ Extended kitchen
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Off road parking
★ Rear garden

NOW £139,950

TIPTON
GOSPEL OAK ROAD

★ Modernised three bedroom mid terrace
★ Two reception rooms
★ Fitted kitchen with utility room
★ Downstairs family bathroom
★ En suite shower room
★ Upstairs WC
★ Double glazing and central heating (where specified)
★ Rear garden

£122,995

Two months of the year have now already gone and people keep asking what's going to happen this year with prices? The honest answer is 'I can't say for sure' but I do think the prices will be roughly what they are now at the end of the year. We have sold more houses than this time last year but overall activity does seem to be down. I think that people are still undecided on whether to move and if they can afford to.

I believe that the bank of England will keep interest rates as they are until later in the year unless the prices appear to be rising when they will increase the rate to keep the prices stable. So, if prices do remain roughly the same and you do have equity in your property then now is definitely the time to move. To find out if you have enough equity and want to move then call us for a **FREE MARKET APPRAISAL** on **0121 520 2255**

'Sell with Confidence'
' Sell with Skitts'

TIPTON
SEFTON GROVE

★ Two bedroom modern detached
★ One reception room and kitchen diner
★ Recently refitted shower room
★ Car port and off road parking
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
★ Rear garden

£120,000

TIPTON
NEWCOMEN DRIVE

★ Three bedroom mid terrace
★ Lounge, dining kitchen
★ Ground floor WC
★ Off road parking
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Rear garden
★ Viewing via Tipton 0121-520 2255

£119,995

TIPTON
MANSION DRIVE

★ Two bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge and kitchen
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Garage with driveway
★ Additional parking to the front
★ Rear garden

£107,500

TIPTON
BRUNEL DRIVE

★ Two bedroom mid town house
★ Lounge
★ Dining kitchen
★ Downstairs WC
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Front and rear gardens

£97,500

OLDBURY
WESTGATE

★ Three bedroom mid townhouse
★ Through lounge
★ Kitchen
★ Downstairs WC
★ Double glazing and central heating (where specified)
★ Front and rear gardens

£89,995

TIPTON
OAK ROAD

★ Three bedroom mid terrace
★ Lounge
★ Fitted kitchen
★ Downstairs WC
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Rear garden

£87,995

TIPTON
CHATWINS WHARF

★ Two bedroom ground floor flat
★ Lounge/dining room
★ Kitchen and bathroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Small rear garden
★ Communal parking
★ Warden controlled for over 55s

£82,500

TIPTON
CARNEGIE AVENUE

★ One bedroom galleried end terrace
★ Entrance hall ★ Lounge area
★ Kitchen diner ★ Bathroom ★
★ Double glazing and storage heating (where specified)
★ Garage and driveway
★ Front and rear gardens

£79,995

TIPTON
AVERN CLOSE

★ Modern one bedroom second floor apartment
★ Lounge and kitchen
★ Shower room
★ Double glazing and storage heating (where specified)
★ Allocated parking space
★ Communal garden to rear

NOW £54,995

Tipton
0121 520 2255

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0121 505 1818

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01902 631151

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NEW

WEDNESBURY
WODEN ROAD EAST
This immaculately presented detached bungalow is fully double glazed and central heated throughout. With two bedrooms plus large attic room the property has two reception rooms plus a conservatory.
£214,950

NEW

Wednesbury
Woden Road South
A super family home situated on one of the town's most popular roads having three bedrooms, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen and first floor bathroom, guest wc, rear garden, generous off road parking and open view to the front.
£169,995

NEW

West Bromwich
Adelaide Avenue
Having central heating and double glazing, this three bedroom semi has a south-facing garden as well a garage and car port. Quietly situated and for sale with no upward chain, this property has a lot to offer a young family and briefly comprises : Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, three Bedrooms, first floor Bathroom, Gardens to front and rear and Garage
£127,500

NEW

Walsall
Webster Road
A three bedroom semi detached property in a quiet cul de sac close to Walsall town centre with double glazing, central heating and no upward chain. With a 5% vendor gifted deposit, this traditional semi must be viewed by first time buyers. A refitted kitchen and bathroom and plenty of space to grow into with the added bonus of generous gardens and off road parking surely worth taking a look!
£89,950 - 5% Vendor Gifted Deposit

NEW

Darlaston
Hall Street East
A three bedroom end terraced property with central heating, double glazing, and no upward chain. Having a ground floor wc and first floor bathroom, lounge, kitchen and gardens to front and rear, this could be an ideal first time purchase.
£84,995

NEW

Darlaston
Marston Avenue
An extended traditional-style two bedroom semi detached property available with no upward chain. Quietly situated in a cul de sac close to Darlaston Town Centre, the property benefits from double glazing, central heating and is competitively priced to appeal to first time buyers or for investment
£82,500

REDUCED

WEST BROMWICH
HOLLYHEDGE ROAD
A rare opportunity to acquire this superior detached property in a prestige location of West Bromwich. With four bedrooms, two en-suite s, three reception rooms plus a large conservatory this fabulous family home simply must be viewed.
£359,950

REDUCED

WEDNESBURY
PEMBERTON CRESCENT
With double glazing and combination heating throughout this three bedroom detached property is offered for sale with no upward chain and is competitively priced for a quick sale.
£125,950

REDUCED

WEST BROMWICH
BUSTLEHOLME LANE
★ Superior detached house
★ Extensively renovated and refurbished
★ Four bedrooms
★ Extended lounge and seperate dining room
★ Fully fitted kitchen
★ Family bathroom and en-suite to master
★ Enclosed south facing rear garden
★ Viewing via Wednesbury office
Offers Over £239,950

REDUCED

WEST BROMWICH
17 LEACROFT GROVE
Enjoying a private aspect to the rear garden and boasting generous bedrooms, this property is offered for sale with no upward chain and is considered ideal for the family buyer. REDUCED FOR A QUICK SALE - MUST BE VIEWED
£120,000

REDUCED

WEST BROMWICH
24 JAMES WATT STREET
Skitts are pleased to offer for sale this mid terraced property. With four bedrooms and two reception rooms the property is considered ideal for a family purchaser or for investment purposes. Close to local amenities this large mid terraced property briefly comprises of; porch, reception hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, four bedrooms and a large rear garden.
£99,995

REDUCED

WEDNESBURY
CURTIN DRIVE
★ Family town house
★ Three excellent sized bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Fully double glazed and condensing central heating
★ Enclosed established rear garden
★ Off road parking and gated driveway
£90,000 OFFERS AROUND

WEDNESBURY
MOOR STREET
Having central heating and double glazing, the property benefits from off road parking for two vehicles to the fore and a generous rear garden and offers accommodation which briefly comprises of : Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, rear Lobby with Guest WC off, three Bedrooms and first floor Bathroom.
£89,950

WEDNESBURY
10 OLDBURY STREET
Having been lovingly improved by the current owners, internal viewing is considered essential to appreciate the quality and size of the internal accommodation which benefits from central heating and double glazing and briefly comprises of: reception hall, dining kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear garden, detached garage to rear
£149,950

REDUCED

DARLASTON
WAVERLEY ROAD
Situated in a popular road, close to the amenities of Darlaston town centre, this spacious traditional-style mid terrace property has central heating and double glazing and offers potential for further improvement..
£84,950

WEST BROMWICH
VICARAGE ROAD
This traditional terrace in a popular location of West Bromwich is considered a lovely starter home with two bedrooms, a re-fitted kitchen and bathroom, and the potential for off road parking at the rear
£97,950

WEDNESBURY
VICARAGE ROAD
Situated in a very popular road, close to Wednesbury town centre, this well appointed traditional-style mid terraced property must be viewed internally to be fully appreciated. Being competitively priced for a quick sale, the accommodation includes two reception rooms, two bedrooms plus attic room - fantastic value.
£94,950

DARLASTON
THE GREEN
An opportunity for a First time buyer to step on to the property ladder with a 50% share of this three bedroomed end of terrace property is ideally located for Darlaston Town Centre.
£49,950 50% share

WEST BROMWICH
MARSH LANE
Offered for sale with no upward chain, this conveniently located three bedroom semi detached home has double glazing and condensing central heating with the benefit of a garage to the rear.
£91,950

WEDNESBURY
COLLINS ROAD
★ This traditional-style three bedroom semi detached home
★ Well presented
accommodation with potential for future extension (subject to Local Authority planning permission).
£144,950

WEST BROMWICH
SIDDONS WAY
★ Modern-style mid town house
★ Immaculately presented throughout
★ Two bedrooms
★ Situated in a cul de sac close to West Bromwich
★ Spacious conservatory
★ Rear garden
★ Off road parking to the fore
★ Viewings via Wednesbury office
£115,000

WEST BROMWICH
STANHURST WAY
A well presented, much improved three bedroom semi detached house enjoying a leafy outlook on this popular development. The property benefits from double glazing and central heating throughout. Super family home with lovely large rear garden, off road parking to the fore and a garage.
£134,950

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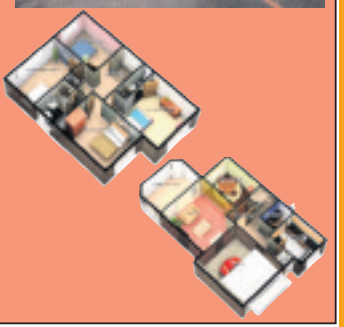

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AUCTION 10 MARCH 2011

AT: ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB @ 11.00 A.M.

135 Lots to include properties on behalf of

Wyre Forest District Council · Sandwell · Birmingham City Council · Bournville

Lot 1:	Hawthorn House, Hamstead Hall Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 35:	107-108 High Street, Stourbridge	Commercial Vacant	Lot 69:	16 Haskell Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 103: 104 Holden Crescent, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 2:	38 Shepley Drive, Rednal	Residential Vacant	Lot 36:	42 Claughton Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 70:	33 Alvecote Lane Cottages NOT BEING OFFERED	Residential Vacant	Lot 104: 5 Ingleby Gardens, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment
Lot 3:	75 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 37:	2 Castle View, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 71:	2 Wellesley Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 105: 19 Marshall Road, Willenhall	Residential Investment
Lot 4:	Site at Bath Walk, Balsall Heath, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 38:	28 Belgrade Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 72:	10 Wellesley Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 106: 175 Poplar Avenue, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 5:	Site of The Elms, Alwold Road/Barnes Hill, Wesley Castle, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 39:	24 Brick Kiln Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment	Lot 73:	The Royal Exchange, 41 Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston	Commercial Vacant	Lot 107: 10 Purley Grove, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 6:	The Willows, 1 Park Road, Hockley, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 40:	23 Burton Crescent, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment	Lot 74:	70 King Street, Dudley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 108: Site Adj. to Allbut Street, Cradley Heath, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 7:	156 High Street, Aston, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 41:	8-10 Walsall Road, Darlaston	Commercial Vacant	Lot 75:	46 Bedford Street, Leamington Spa	Residential Investment	Lot 109: Site at Purdy Road/Batmans Hill Road, Tipton	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 8:	23 All Saints Road, Hockley, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 42:	49 Church Street, Halesowen	Residential Vacant	Lot 76:	48 Bedford Street, Leamington Spa	Residential Investment	Lot 110: Land at Barnfield Road, Tipton	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 9:	Alderlea, 32 Middle Park Road, Bournville, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 43:	154 St. Giles Road, Kitts Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 77:	Bromley House, Dixons Green Road, Dudley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 111: 31 Western Road, Sutton Coldfield	Residential Vacant
Lot 10:	Milton Grange, 16 Handsworth Wood Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 44:	3 Riverway, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 78:	Reflex Night Club, 42 Lion Street, Oakgates, Telford	Commercial Vacant	Lot 112: 1 Brougham Street, Lozells, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 11:	756 College Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 45:	288 - 290 Haunch Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 79:	Premises at Hackett Close, Woodcross, Wolverhampton	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 113: Land at Hampshire Road, Hill Top, West Bromwich	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 12:	86 Murdock Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 46:	The Jolly Collier, 222 Huntington Terrace Road, Chadsmore, Cannock	Commercial Vacant	Lot 80:	Lea Road Offices, Graisley, Wolverhampton	Commercial Vacant	Lot 114: Land at Windsor Street, Hill Top, West Bromwich	Development/Redevelopment
Lot 13:	12 Linwood Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 47:	24 Endhill Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 81:	SASB Park Crescent, West Park, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 115: Flat 18 Richard Leighton House, The Parade, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 14:	4 & 8 Plants Grove, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 48:	19 Lea Croft, New Invention, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 82:	18 Holly Lane, Marston Green	Residential Vacant	Lot 116: 1 Clearwood Close, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 15:	1 Primrose Cottages, Off George Street, Lozells, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 49:	43 Warstones Road, Penn, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 83:	Garages 5 & 6, r/o Willow Avenue, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Garages	Lot 117: 9 Coalway Road, Bloxwich	Residential Vacant
Lot 16:	2 Primrose Cottages, Off George Street, Lozells, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 50:	259 Aldersley Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 84:	2 Beacon Drive, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 118: 109 Dixons Green Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 17:	8, 16 & 32 Needhill Close, Knowle, Solihull & 20, 25, 30 & 41 Austcliffe Drive, Solihull	Ground Rent	Lot 51:	147 Stringes Lane, Willenhall	Residential Vacant	Lot 85:	35 Heath Street, Stourbridge	Residential Investment	Lot 119: 1A Pound Road & 22 Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury	Residential Investment
Lot 18:	3, 9, 10, 11, 21 & 29 Stoneythorpe Close & 6 Thorngrove Avenue, Solihull	Ground Rent	Lot 52:	8 Apollo Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 86:	16A Belbroughton Road, Blakedown, Kidderminster	Residential Investment	Lot 120: 25 Charnwood Close, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 19:	5, 12 & 22 Hartside Close, 1 & 3 Mendip Road & 1, 7 & 16 Oxenton Croft, Halesowen	Ground Rent	Lot 53:	22 Apollo Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 87:	16B Belbroughton Road, Blakedown, Kidderminster NOT BEING OFFERED	Residential Investment	Lot 122: 1 Orton Grove, Penn, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 20:	51, 53, 55, 57, 59 & 108 Scaife Road, Bromsgrove & 9, 20, 22 & 24 Berrow View, Bromsgrove	Ground Rent	Lot 54:	7 & 8 New Street, Stourport on Severn	Commercial Vacant	Lot 88:	40 Beech Green, Dudley NOT BEING OFFERED	Commercial Vacant	Lot 123: 56 Platts Crescent, Stourbridge	Residential Vacant
Lot 21:	8, 55, 58, 69, 71 & 78 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth	Ground Rent	Lot 55:	55 Blackwell Street, Kidderminster	Commercial Vacant	Lot 89:	103 Sutton Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 124: 4 Tipton Road, Sedgley, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 22:	1, 3, 19 & 56 Chelworth Road & 47 Holly Dell, Kings Norton, Birmingham & 43 Beacon Street, Bilston	Ground Rent	Lot 56:	182 Essington Road, Essington, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 90:	Land at Blakeley Hall Road, Oldbury	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 125: 52 Wellington Road, Dudley	Residential Investment
Lot 23:	16, 20, 24, 32 & 34 Minden Grove & 184 Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Ground Rent	Lot 57:	96 & 98 Fentham Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 91:	Land at 120-122 Devonshire Road, Smethwick	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 126: 47 Rooker Avenue, Wolverhampton	Commercial Investment
Lot 24:	27, 28, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 & 41 Elmwoods Gardens, Handsworth, Birmingham	Ground Rent	Lot 58:	44 Mushroom Hall Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 92:	Land at Florence Road/Poplar Grove, Smethwick	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 127: 16 Oakland Road, Bloxwich	Residential Vacant
Lot 25:	NOT BEING OFFERED		Lot 59:	17 Richmond Hill, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 93:	1 Royal Arch Apartments, Floor 9 The Mailbox, Wharfside Street, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 128: 8 Mount Road, Willenhall	Residential Investment
Lot 26:	26 Bewley Road & 3 & 17 Calstock Road, Willenhall	Ground Rent	Lot 60:	Melfraz House, Langley Drive, Castle Bromwich	Commercial Vacant	Lot 94:	The Clubhouse, Long Lane Park, Long Lane, Essington, Wolverhampton	Commercial Vacant	Lot 129: 132 Selsey Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 27:	57, 59 & 67 Meadowcroft Gardens, Sheffield	Ground Rent	Lot 61:	904-906 Warwick Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant/Part Investment	Lot 95:	14 Endwood Court, 1 Handsworth Wood Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 130: 6 Orchard Grove, Lower Gornal, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 28:	673, 675 & 677 Kingstanding Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham	Ground Rent	Lot 62:	32 Katherine Road, Bearwood	Residential Vacant	Lot 96:	719 Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 131: 37 Victoria Street, Willenhall	Residential Vacant
Lot 29:	131 Acheson Road, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 63:	26 Fairoaks Drive, Great Wyrley, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 97:	721 Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 132: 67 Roseville Precinct, Castle Street, Coseley	Residential Vacant
Lot 30:	Land Between 110 - 131 Toll End Road, Tipton	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 64:	55 Hyde Road, Wednesfield	Residential Vacant	Lot 98:	Stuart House, Vale Pitts Road, Garretts Green, Birmingham	Commercial Investment	Lot 133: 11 Grosmont Avenue, Balsall Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 31:	168-170 Slade Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 65:	23 Shirley Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 99:	Open Land in Rowley Regis, Nr Oldbury	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 134: 37 Bond Street, Hurst Hill, Coseley	Residential Vacant
Lot 32:	Apartment 3, Broadway Plaza, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 66:	11 Victoria Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant	Lot 100:	Open Land Adj. Former Quarry Site off St. Brades Close, Oldbury	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 135: 23 Gracemere Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 33:	Land at 90 Langley Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Development/Redevelopment	Lot 67:	The Bear, St James Lane, Willenhall, Coventry	Commercial Vacant	Lot 101:	3 River Lee Road, Tyseley, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 136: 16 Amberley Road, Otton Solihull	Residential Vacant
Lot 34:	14 Church Street, Whittington, Lichfield	Residential Vacant	Lot 68:	The Nags Head, 109 The Green, Darlaston	Commercial Vacant	Lot 102:	19 High Street, West Bromwich	Commercial Vacant		

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LET IN 2 DAYS

DARLASTON
PHOENIX RISE
- One Bedroom Flat
- First Floor
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Considered

£370 PCM

WEDNESBURY
WOOD GREEN ROAD
- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Shower Room
- Secured Off Road Parking at Rear
- DHSS Considered

£375 pcm

TIPTON
ELIZABETH WALK
- One Bedroom Flat
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- One Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- Car Parking
- Sorry NO DHSS

£395 PCM

DARLASTON
ADDENBROOKE STREET
- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Front & Rear Gardens
- DHSS Considered

£395 PCM

NEW

WEDNESBURY
MANIFOLD WAY
- One bedroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- One Bedroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

£395 PCM

NEW

WEDNESBURY
LOWER HIGH STREET
- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- DHSS Accepted

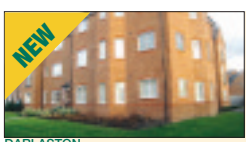
£410 PCM

WEDNESBURY
WOOD GREEN ROAD
- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Secured Off Road Parking

£450 pcm

DARLASTON
THE AVENUE
- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Communal Grounds
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry NO DHSS

£450 pcm



NEW

DARLASTON
DORSETT ROAD
- 2nd Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Designated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£450 pcm

TIPTON
ST HELENS AVENUE
- Mid Terraced House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Fitted Kitchen
- Sorry NO DHSS

£475 pcm

LET IN 9 DAYS

WEDNESBURY
GREGORY CLOSE
- Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Sorry NO DHSS

£475 pcm

NEW

WEDNESBURY
WALDRON CLOSE
- End Terraced House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry NO DHSS

£475 pcm

NEW

TAMEBRIDGE
TANACETUM DRIVE
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception rooms
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Ensuite Shower Room
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry NO DHSS

£575 PCM

DARLASTON
WALSALL ROAD
- Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Two Further Bedrooms
- Detached Garage
- Sorry NO DHSS

£750 PCM

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New estate cottage to rise from the ashes

The fire-damaged cottage in Queslett, since demolished

A GATE keepers' cottage which once stood at the entrance of a hospital in Great Barr is to be rebuilt as part of a new housing development.

Designs for the family house, which will replace the period gatehouse gutted by a blaze, have been unveiled by developer Bovis Homes, which has transformed the former St Margaret's Hospital site off Queslett Road, Great Barr.

The old cottage was wrecked along with numerous outbuildings in the grounds by arsonists and vandals after the closure of the hospital in the 1990s.

Now Bovis is poised to recreate the landmark cottage for use a family home at the same spot near the entrance to the new estate, now known as Nether Hall Park.

Rebuilding the old cottage, the remains of which were recently demolished, is one the many transformations taking place at the site where more than 400 homes are being built.

Nether Hall Park's site manager Patrick Price said: "It'll be great to see it restored to its former glory and we will be trying to reuse as much material as possible in the restoration, which is now starting in earnest."

Gothic

Almost 100 people recently went on tour of the housing estate to view the new properties, landscaping features and restoration work.

This includes work on a gothic bridge and woodland where thousands of saplings are being planted.

The development was opposed by Beacon Action Group and the Great Barr Hall Action Committee over concerns about extra traffic.

How the replacement cottage could look

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SMETHWICK

NEW INSTRUCTION
Thuree Road
A rare opportunity to acquire an extremely spacious, thoughtfully improved, 4 bedroomed extended family home in popular neighbourhood, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, dining/sitting room, super spacious breakfast kitchen, side passage/useful store, 4 bedrooms, attractive bathroom, additioan shower room, off road parking and good sized rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £249,950

ROWLEY REGIS

NEW INSTRUCTION
Penncricket Lane
An attractive, well presented, thoughtfully improved, 3 Bedroomed traditional style semi detached property having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing, requiring internal inspection and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, attractive lounge, re-fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), utility, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, off road parking and pleasant good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £124,950

OLDBURY

NEW INSTRUCTION
Brandhall Court
A chance to acquire a spacious, well proportioned, 2 Bedroomed 2nd floor flat pleasantly situated upon this popular development with delightful outlook towards Golf Course. The flat has double glazing, approached via a communal entrance and breifly comprises :- Entrance hall (with storage), attractive spacious lounge, kitchen, 2 good sized bedrooms, bathroom, communal gardens and GARAGE in separate block. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £119,950

QUINTON

NEW INSTRUCTION
First Meadow Piece
A decptively spacious, delightfully presented and thoughtfully improved 3 bedroomed family home offering well proportioned living accommodation throughout and truly requiring an internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having double glazing, warm air heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful spacious lounge (with feature fireplace), super fitted dining kitchen (having oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, attractive bathroom, drive providing off road parking, GARAGE and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £119,950

QUINTON

NEW PRICE
Hansom Road
A deceptive, well proportioned 3 bedroomed traditional style family home, conveniently situated having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and briefly comprising: Porch, entrance hall, through lounge/dining area, kitchen, side verandah/store, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, drive providing off road parking and pleasant rear garden. No upward chain. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £130,000

SMETHWICK

NEW PRICE
Cheshire Road
An extremely spacious, thoughtfully improved and well presented, 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property having double glazing, gas radiator heating and briefly comprising: Entrance hall, delightful spacious through lounge with dining area, attractive refitted kitchen (having integrated oven/hob and dishwasher), refitted downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms and pleasant rear garden. Viewing essential to fully appreciate the accommodation on offer. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £124,500

OLDBURY

NEW PRICE
Perryhill Crescent
A spacious 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property in this cul-de-sac position, having gas radiator heating and double glazing, requiring internal inspection and comprising :- Porch, hall, through lounge with dining area (having feature fireplace), kitchen, utility with store cupboards off, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c., and pleasant rear garden. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £117,000

SMETHWICK

NEW PRICE
Clifton Road
This delightfully presented, thoughtfully improved, 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property offers spacious living accommodation throughout and truly requires an internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, separate dining room, re-fitted kitchen, attractive downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms and pleasant rear garden. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £110,00

OLDBURY

NEW PRICE
Causeway Green Road
Attractive, well presented, spacious, thoughtfully improved 3 bedroomed end terraced property having double glazing, gas radiator heating, requiring internal inspection and briefly comprising:- Entrance hall, sitting room, attractive L-Shaped lounge with dining area, kitchen, rear vestibule, re-fitted downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms (master having w.c off), and pleasant rear garden.
Offers Around: £104,950

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WEST BROMWICH
OVERTON PLACE

LET
Refurbished 2 bedroom flat near sandwell hospital, reception room, ch and dg, communial car park.
£450

TIPTON
ST.HELENS AVENUE

APPLICATION IN
Modern 2 bedroom town house, one reception room, ch and dg, rear garden communial carpark. Unfurnished
&480

WEST BROMWICH
HALLAM STREET

LET
2 bedroom property, spacious reception room, kitchen and dining space ch and dg. first floor bathroom, available fully furnished. near sandwell hospital
£500

WEST BROMWICH
OAK ROAD

COMMERCIAL
Commercial Shop/office, good size retail premises, Separate w.c. Front shop window with shutter. very secure and ideal position 5 min walk from High street.
£85 pw

WEST BROMWICH
GRAFTON ROAD

LET
3 bed semi-detached property, CH and DG, spacious lounge, situated near Sandwell hospital.
£550 PCM

TIPTON
KENILWORTH CLOSE

APPLICATION IN
Three bedroom link detached property, large reception room, CH and DG, garage and drive.
£575 PCM

WEST BROMWICH
OAK ROAD

Three bedroom terrace property, two reception rooms, CH and DG, unfurnished.
£450 PCM

TIVIDALE
LESLIE RISE

NEW
3 bedroom semi dtached property, spacious lounge, ch & dg. First floor bathroom. off road parking. garden. unfurnished
£500

TIPTON
SPRING MEADOW

Lovely 1 bedroom flat, open plan kitchen, storage heaters, double glazed window. allocated parking
£550 PCM

WEST BROMWICH
WHITGREAVE STREET

APPLICATION IN
3 bedroom semi-detached property, 2 reception rooms ch and dg, off road parking with a garage. unfurnished. situated near great bridge.
£575 PCM

WEST BROMWICH
GRIFFITHS ROAD

3 Bedroom semi-detached property, spacious lounge, central heated and double glazed, unfurnished. first floor bathroom.
£525

WEST BROMWICH
WHEATLEY STREET

2 bedroom semi-detached property, one reception room. ch and dg, front and rear gardens, unfurnished. new kitchen and bathroom.
£480

WEST BROMWICH
HARRINGTON CROFT

NEW
Modern 2 bedroom apartment on the ground floor, large reception room. good size kitchen and bathroom, ch & dg, designated parking. Available fully furnished.£570
£570

WEST BROMWICH
NEW STREEET NORTH

APPLICATION IN
3 Bedroom spacious property, large through lounge, ch & dg, first floor bathroom, unfirnished. near sandwell hospital
£525

WEST BROMWICH
WESTLEY COURT

Modern 2 bedroom apartment, spacious open plan kitchen, fitted bathroom, storage heaters, dg windows. designated secure carpark.
£550

WEST BROMWICH
SAMS LANE

LET
2 bedroom mid-terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch & dg, first floor bathroom, unfurnished property.
£465

WEST BROMWICH
TRINITY SREET

Lovely 2 bedroom property, lounge, dining space, ch & dg, first floor bathroom. Available fully furnished
£525

WEST BROMWICH
HIGH ST

NEW
very spacious 2 bedroom flat above shops, fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom and additional w.c, ch & dg. Available furnished.
£480

WEST BROMWICH
HALLAM STREET

LET
3 bedroom sacious property, large reception room, central heated and double glazed, available part furnished
£525

TIPTON
HARPER GROVE

LET
2 bedroom modern ground floor apartment, large reception room, central heated and double glazed, unfurnished. allocated parking
£490

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DEREK SPIRES
ESTATE AGENTS

NEW

DOG KENNEL LANE, OLDBURY

Situated in a very popular and desirable residential locality this traditional semi detached residence offers good accommodation and requires full internal inspection to be appreciated, it briefly comprises reception hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, side garage, off street parking, gardens to front and rear, freehold.

Offers based on: 189,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

NEW

ALBION ROAD, WEST BROMWICH

This prominent corner property offers good accommodation with the benefit of double glazing. Internal inspection is highly recommended and it briefly comprises reception hall, lounge, good sized breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, well appointed shower room, ample space for car parking to front, enclosed garden, freehold.

Offers based on: £127,500

Viewing: Oldbury Office

NEW

BOROUGH CRESCENT, OLDBURY

Situated on the popular Lion Farm Estate of Oldbury close to Whiteheath Gate, this excellently presented first floor maisonette forms an ideal first time purchase and requires full internal inspection to be appreciated. The accommodation benefits from double glazing and gas fired central heating and it includes, entrance hall, front lounge, inner hall with bathroom, fitted kitchen and double bedroom, communal fore and rear gardens.

Offers based on: £74,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

NEW

BROOK ROAD, OLDBURY

Full internal inspection is highly recommended for this well presented deceptively spacious semi detached house contained on a popular residential development close to the Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury. The property offers good accommodation with the benefit of double glazing and gas fired central heating and briefly comprises entrance hall, front lounge, conservatory, fitted kitchen, rear vestible, utility, downstairs toilet, three bedrooms, bathroom, off street parking to front, pleasant rear garden, freehold.

Offers based on: £124,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

THE MOORINGS, OLDBURY

Situated on a popular modern residential development this canalside property forms an ideal first purchase and requires full internal inspection to be appreciated. The property benefits from Economy 7 storage heaters, an intruder alarm and is in excellent condition throughout. The accommodation comprises vestibule, reception hall, two bedrooms, bathroom, front facing lounge, fitted kitchen, off street parking.5% GIFTED DEPOSIT

Offers based on £77,000

Viewing: Oldbury Office

REDUCED

BRANDHALL ROAD, OLDBURY

Full inspection is highly recommended for this modern style detached residence situated on one of the most sought after residential neighbourhoods in Oldbury. The property requires a certain amount of upgrading and briefly comprises reception hall, fitted cloakroom, open plan lounge/diner, kitchen, side covered passageway, three bedrooms, bathroom, side garage, garden. Freehold

Offers based on £165,000

Viewing Oldbury Office

HARBORNE ROAD, BEARWOOD

Delightfully situated on high ground in this sought after neighbourhood and commanding truly impressive views over the surrounding areas, to both front and rear, a substantial traditional freehold semi detached residence offering excellent family accommodation with a host of original features and to include four double bedrooms, spacious well appointed bathroom with individual shower, reception hall, lounge, separate dining room, large dining kitchen and established gardens, incorporating gas central heating, some double glazing and burglar alarm system, direct facing Warley Woods and being within easy reach of comprehensive day to day facilities to include easy access to Birmingham city centre.

Offers based on: £345,000

Viewing: Bearwood Office

ST MARKS ROAD

A most sympathetically improved, attractively presented and pleasantly situated traditional style semi detached residence fronting St. Marks Road in this established and popular neighbourhood, and offering gas centrally heated, double glazed and fully alarmed accommodation with a number of original features and to include three bedrooms, part tiled bathroom with shower, hall, dining room, separate lounge, spacious fitted kitchen/breakfast room, laundry/utility, downstairs wc, side garage and attractive laid out gardens with off-street parking, enjoying comprehensive day to day amenities close at hand and requiring full internal inspection to be appreciated.

Offers based on £170,000

Viewing:

BISHOPTON ROAD

Enjoying a much favoured residential location in this pleasant neighbourhood adjacent to Lightwoods Park, a traditional style freehold villa residence offering gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed accommodation to include three bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen with integrated oven/hob and garden to the rear, having the benefit of comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand to include easy access to Birmingham city centre.

£169,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

MONMOUTH ROAD, BEARWOOD

A traditional freehold semi detached located just a quarter of a mile or so from both Warley Woods and the main Hagley Road West, offering gas CH and PVC DG accommodation, deceptively spacious, hall, lounge, separate dining room, extended refitted kitchen/breakfast room, three bedrooms, well appointed bathroom having double size individual shower compartment, neatly laid out garden, rear garage, with off-street parking for two cars to the front, easy access to Birmingham city centre and having Lightwoods School just a short walking distance.

Offers based on £199,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

CASTLE ROAD

Enjoying an extremely convenient location in an established neighbourhood just off the main Wolverhampton Road, a traditional style freehold semi-detached residence with extended ground floor accommodation, gas centrally heated and double glazed to include enclosed porch, hall, through lounge/dining room, superb conservatory, utility area, refitted kitchen, downstairs washroom/WC, three bedrooms, fully tiled shower room, mature south-facing garden and off-street parking to the front with the benefit of comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand.

Offers based on £144,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

CHURCH ROAD, BEARWOOD

A most sympathetically improved, attractively presented and exceptionally convenient traditional style freehold semi detached style villa residence offering gas centrally heated, PVC double glazed and fully alarmed accommodation to include a most attractive through lounge/dining room, spacious refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, fully tiled refitted bathroom and established gardens, having the benefit of a modern damp proof course, wiring and re-tiled roof, with comprehensive amenities close at hand and being ideal for first time purchasers.

Offers based on: £99,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

PUBLIC AUCTION

AT THE PORTLAND
241 PORTLAND ROAD, EDGBASTON
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ON MONDAY 28th MARCH 2011 at 6.30pm

Our next collective auction will include the following lots:

Lot 1: 59 LINDEN ROAD, BEARWOOD
Freehold 3 bedroomed terraced needing full modernisation **£65-70,000**

Lot 2: 42 HAMILTON ROAD, BEARWOOD
Freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached needing general improvement **£75-80,000**

Lot 3: 39 GLADYS ROAD, BEARWOOD
Freehold double glazed and centrally heated 2 bedroomed terraced **£80-85,000**

Lot 4: 59 THE GROVE, WALSALL
Freehold 3 bedroomed semi in need of improvement **£circa 75,000**

Lot 5: 89 SELWYN ROAD, EDGBASTON
Freehold fully modernised centrally heated 5 bedroomed semi **£250-260,000**

Lot 6: 3 BOROUGH CRESCENT, OLDBURY
Freehold 3 bedroomed centrally heated and extended semi-detached **£80-85,000**

Lot 7: 499 HAGLEY ROAD, BEARWOOD
Freehold office/residential premises with self-contained 2 bedroomed apartment **£165-175,000**

Lot 8: 10 OAK STREET, QUARRY BANK
Freehold detached 6 bedroomed property **£circa 80,000**

Lot 9: 65 WHITE ROAD, SMETHWICK
Freehold 3 bedroomed end terrace with central heating and double glazing **£circa 85,000**

Lot 10: 126 WIGORN ROAD, BEARWOOD
Freehold 3 bedroomed villa in need of upgrading **£80-90,000**

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OLDBURY NEW

BIRCHLEY PARK AVENUE

Offers in the region of £239,950

An exceptionally well presented modern detached Recessed entrance, reception hall, cloakroom and garage off, two reception rooms, kitchen utility area off. Staircase to first floor landing, four bedrooms (en-suite off master) bathroom, central heating, double glazing, off road parking, front and rear gardens

OLDBURY NEW

HIGHBURY ROAD

Offers in the region of £204,950

A modern detached property recessed front entrance into reception hall, cloaks and garage leading off, through lounge divided into lounge and dining area, kitchen, staircase to first floor landing, four bedrooms (en-suite off master) bathroom, central heating, double glazing, off road parking, rear garden

OLDBURY NEW

BIRCHLEY PARK AVENUE

Offers in the region of £187,500

An exceptionally well presented detached residence. Recessed front entrance opening onto hall, cloakroom off, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Staircase from hall to first floor landing, three bedrooms (en-suite off master bedroom) bathroom, central heating and double glazing, side garage, off road parking, front and rear gardens

OLDBURY

EMBASSEY ROAD

Offers in the region of £177,950

A well presented fully modernised detached family home decorated in a modern style, situated on a corner position. Hall entrance with W.C. off, lounge, dining room, kitchen, large conservatory. Staircase to three bedrooms (en-suite of master bedroom) bathroom, off road parking to front, garage, central heating and double glazing, rear garden

OLDBURY REDUCED

FARM AVENUE

Offers in the region of £159,950

A well presented traditional semi detached within the catchment areas of Moat Farm Junior School and Oldbury College of Sport, offering tastefully modern decorated extended family accommodation, porch entrance, reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, archway to conservatory. Stairs to three bedrooms, shower room, central heating and double glazing, off road parking, rear garden

OLDBURY

FARM ROAD

Offers in the region of £159,950

A traditional semi detached property benefiting from two storey extension to the rear, hall entrance stores off, through lounge with dining area and feature fireplace, L shaped kitchen. Staircase from hallway to first floor landing off which lead three bedrooms (one with fitted wardrobes) bathroom, side garage, double glazing and central heating, parking to front and rear garden

OLDBURY

HAYES ROAD

Offers in the region of £134,950

A well presented and tastefully modernly decorated double fronted semi detached property Hall entrance, lounge feature fireplace including log burner, dining kitchen with integrated appliances, W.C off. Staircase to three bedrooms (walk in wardrobe off master) bathroom shower over bath, double glazed, central heating where specified, off road parking, front and rear gardens

WEST BROMWICH

CONSTANCE AVENUE

Offers in the region of £130,000

A fully modernised, improved and extended end town house having double garage to the rear porch entrance, reception hall, front room doors into rear lounge, L shaped kitchen including dining area. Staircase to three bedrooms, bathroom shower over bath, central heating, double glazing,off road parking, rear garden.

WEST BROMWICH

ANDREW ROAD

Offers in the region of £129,950

A detached family home situated on a corner plot offering well planned accommodation comprising hall entrance stores off, through lounge incorporating dinning area, kitchen integral oven and hob, staircase to three bedrooms, bathroom shower over bath, double glazing, central heating, off road parking, garage gardens to front side and rear.

OLDBURY

JARVIS CRESCENT

Offers in the region of £125,000

An improved and extended semi detached property location having large themed landscaped and well maintained garden to the rear, storm porch entrance, hall, lounge, dining room, inner hallway having bathroom, seperate w.c, stores and conservatory leading off, kitchen. Staircase to three bedrooms, central heating and double glazing, off road parking and rear garden

OLDBURY

ARDEN GROVE

Offers in the region of £120,950

A well mainted and presented modern semi detached property situated within a popular location close to Langley High Street side entrance to hall cloaks off, lounge with feature fireplace, kitchen having integrated appliances, stairs to two bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath, central heating, double glazing, extended garage, workshop to rear and gardens

OLDBURY

VICTORIA ROAD

Offers in the region of £112,950

A semi detached property situated in a corner position having potential for side extension subject to planning consent, reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace, kitchen, shower room. Staircase from reception hall to first floor landing off which lead three bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing where specified, off road parking, front and rear gardens

OLDBURY REDUCED

CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

Offers in the region of £104,995

A deceptively well maintained and improved End Terraced residence offering ideal first purchase, hall entrance front room L shaped rear sitting room with dining area location bathroom staircase from hall to first floor landing three bedrooms w.c off master bedroom gas central heating double glazing off road parking and front and rear garden.

OLDBURY

ASCOT CLOSE

Offers in the region of £99,950

A semi detached house situated on one of the areas quiet locations offering ideal acquisition for investment or first time purchase comprising storm porch entrance into lounge with feature fireplace, dining kitchen. Staircase from lounge to first floor landing, three bedrooms, double glazing, electric night storage heating controlled by Economy 7 time clock, off road parking and carport, gardens to front and rear

TIPTON

GROVELAND ROAD

Offers in the region of £43,500

A 50% share within a first floor flat offering good sized well maintained accommodation within a quiet location overlooking the canal network to rear. Entrance with entry phone system to front entrance door, reception hall stores off, lounge, kitchen including oven and hob, two bedrooms, bathroom shower over bath, double glazing and central heating, communal garden and allocated car parking space

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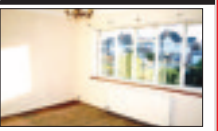
Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- A Three Bedroom Semi-detached
- Conveniently situated for schools
- Stunning New Kitchen
- Superb New Bathroom
- Potential to Develop & Improve
- No Chain

Offers in the region of £154.950

Quinton Road, Harborne



- Fantastic Opportunity!
- Two Bedroom Semi Dormer Bungalow
- Fantastic Views Across Golf Course
- Room to Develop and Modernise
- Integral Garage
- No Upward Chain

Offers in the region of £209,950

Talbot Road, Bearwood

- AThree Bed Mid Terrace
- Spacious and Much Improved
- Tastefully Decorated Throughout
- Ideally Situated for Local Amenities
- Stunning Re-Fitted Kitchen
- No Upward Chain

Offers in the region of £132,995

Hales Crescent, Smethwick

- A Three Bedroom Terrace Residence
- Substantially Enhanced & Deceptively Spacious
- Ideal Family Sized Accommodation
- Impressive Re-fitted Kitchen
- Superb Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Useful Workshop to Rear

Offers in the region of £154,950

Farm Road, Rowley Regis

POTENTIAL TO EXTEND

- Delightful Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Extensive Garden
- Potential to Extend
- Viewing Advised

Offers in the region of £114,950

Merrivale Road, Bearwood

- A Most Attractive Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Original Features
- Stunning Bathroom
- Tasteful Decor Throughout
- No Chain

Offers in the region of £126,950

Woodgreen Croft, Oldbury

- A Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Impressive Rear Garden
- Garage
- Quiet Cul-de-sac Location

Offers in the region of £159,950

Moat Road, Oldbury

- Traditional End Terrace Property
- Well Presented Throughout
- Five Bedrooms
- Delightful Kitchen
- Workshop to Rear
- Pleasant Rear Garden

Offers in the region of £189,950

Londonderry Lane, Smethwick

- An Exceptional Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms Plus Loft Room
- Delightful Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- No Upward Chain
- Ideal FTB Purchase

Offers in the region of £124,950

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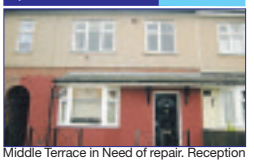
Bertram Close, Tipton NEW

Modern Extended Terrace having upvc double glazing, gas central heating, extended to rear and spacious family accommodation. Reception hall, lounge, sitting room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, fore court to front, 2 garages to rear & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £149,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Coronation Road, Tipton NEW



Middle Terrace in Need of repair. Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, shower room, driveway to front & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £54,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Hopton Close, Woodford Hollow, Tipton NEW

Modern Starter home having upvc double glazing and making an ideal first time purchase. Porch, lounge, fitted kitchen, 1 bedroom (built in wardrobes), bathroom with shower, 2 car driveway and gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £72,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tierney Drive, Bridgemere, Tipton NEW

Modern End Terrace situated on a good size plot, whilst having the benefit of upvc double glazing, gas central heating and superbly improved accommodation. Reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, shower room, driveway to side, fore garden & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Stead Close, Burberry Grange, Tipton NEW

Modern Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & superbly presented accommodation. Situated on a sought after development whilst briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen / dining room, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, luxury bathroom plus shower cubicle, large crete-print driveway, garage & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £164,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Weston Drive, Woodford Hollow, Tipton

Modern Semi Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Situated in a sought after location whilst briefly comprising, porch, reception hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen with built in oven/hob, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, side block paved driveway, side garage, fore & rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £119,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Wood Lane, West Bromwich NEW

Middle Terrace having double glazing & gas central heating. Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, driveway to front & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £84,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Standbridge Way, Tipton REDUCED

Modern Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, driveway, garage, front and rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £159,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Sannders Crescent, Tipton NEW

Modern Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and good size family accommodation. Reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, conservatory, study room, fitted kitchen with built in oven/hob, 4 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, 2 car driveway, garage and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £194,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Davis Avenue, Tipton

Traditional Extended Semi Detached having double glazing, gas central heating & extension to rear. Situated in most sough after location & briefly comprising, reception hall, through lounge / dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, 2 car driveway to front & large rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Hall Street, Tipton NEW

Semi Detached situated on a good size plot and having upvc double glazing / gas central heating. Reception hall, lounge, sitting room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, shower room, enclosed driveway, garage, outside w.c. fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £129,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

St Martins Drive, Standeridge Park, Tipton

Modern Semi Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Situated on a sought after development whilst briefly comprising, reception hall, guest cloakroom, through lounge / dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, side driveway, fore & rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £136,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Brookfield Way, Tipton NEW

Modern Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Porch, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen with built in oven/hob, 3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, driveway, garage & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £149,000
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Mayhurst Close, Tipton

Middle Terrace having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & well maintained accommodation. Reception hall, through lounge / dining room, fitted kitchen (built in appliances), 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, Intruder Alarm, fore / rear garden and garage in separate block.
OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Lindley Avenue, Tipton NEW

Traditional Semi Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & offering no upward chain. Recently improved whilst briefly comprising, porch, reception hall, lounge, re-fitted kitchen / dining room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway to front / shared to side, garage & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £117,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Bramah Way, Bridgemere, Tipton

Modern Semi Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Situated on a sought after development the accommodation briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen with built in oven/hob, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, garage & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £114,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Willingsworth Road, Wednesbury

Extended Middle Terrace having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & extension to rear. Well maintained accommodation briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen with built in oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, 3 bedrooms, en suite, 2 car driveway to front & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £123,000
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Larch Croft, Tividale REDUCED

Modern Extended Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & extended to ground / first floor. Situated in a cul de sac location, the family accommodation briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted breakfast kitchen, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, side garage with guest cloakroom, fore and rear gardens..
OFFERS AROUND: £189,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Beaconview Road, West Bromwich NEW

An Attractive, Modern Ground Floor Apartment, located within the recently built Park Mews Development. Benefitting From Central Heating, Double Glazing, Intruder Alarm and No Upward Chain. Accomodation briefly comprises- Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen/ Diner, Inner Lobby with Large Storage Cupboard, Bathroom/ WC, Master Bedroom and Parking Space.
Viewing 0121 525 2111 OFFERS AROUND: £64,950

Beaconview Road, West Bromwich West Bromwich NEW

Coming Soon- Call For Details. A Modern 3 Bed Room, 3 Storey House benefitting from No Upward Chain. Centrally Heated and Double Glazed. Accomodation Comprises- Hall & Study, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Shared Ensuite, Gardens and Off Road Parking. Unexpired Premier Guarantee
OFFERS AROUND: £135,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Farm End Close, West Bromwich West Bromwich NEW

Coming Soon- Call For Details Excellent for first time buyers. A modern semi detached house located within the popular Park Mews development. Benefiting from Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and immediate vacant possession. Accommodation Comprising- Entrance with Guest Cloaks/ WC, Open Plan Kitchen with appliances/ Diner/ Lounge, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC. Front garden and off street parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Farm End Close, West Bromwich West Bromwich NEW

Coming Soon- A Spacious 4 Bedroom Home Arranged over 3 Floor. This Modern Property Benefits from Central Heating, Double Glazing and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises- Hall, WC, Utility, Lounge Area, Dining Area, Kitchen, Master Bedroom with ensuite, 3 Further Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC. Gardens to Rear and Driveway to front leading to garage. Unexpired Premier Guarantee.
OFFERS AROUND: £149,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Smithmore Crescent, West Bromwich West Bromwich NEW

Coming Soon- Call For Deatails. A Modern, 6 Bedroom, 3 Storey House. Centrally Heated and Double Glazed. Accomodation Comprises, Hall with Shower/ WC, Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen/ Diner, Bathroom/ WC, Master Bedroom with En Suite, Five Further Bedrooms, Rear Garden, Driveway/ Off Road Parking and Garage. Unexpired Premier Guarantee
OFFERS AROUND: £169,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Turner Street, West Bromwich West Bromwich NEW

A Three Bedroom Mid Terraced House requiring upgrading and refurbishment. No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner (Not Fitted), Three Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC (requires attention) and Gardens to Front & Rear.
OFFERS AROUND: £85,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Bank Street, West Bromwich West Bromwich NEW

A Semi Detached House benefitting from No Upward Chain. Benefitting from Central Heating and Double Glazing. Accomodation Comprises- Lounge, Refitted Kitchen/ Diner, 2 Good Size Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front and Rear. Convenient Location for Shops, Schools and Bus Routes.
OFFERS AROUND: £92,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Turner Street, West Bromwich REDUCED

A 2 Bedroom Mid Terraced House with Central Heating and Double Glazing. The Property Comprises:- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom/, Conservatory, 2 Bedrooms, master with En-Suite, Garage to rear, Gardens to Front and Rear.
Viewing 0121 525 2111 OFFERS AROUND: £90,000

Turners Croft, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A Superbly Priced, Modern Mid Town House situated within a quiet Cul De Sac. Located in the sought after Penny Hill Lane area, this property has been refurbished and modernised by the current vendor. No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, 2 Bedrooms, Shower Room/ WC, Driveway/ Off Road Parking and Rear Garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Devon Crescent, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A 2 Bedroom Semi Detached House Situated within a quiet cul de sac location. Accomodation Comprises- Hall, Through Lounge/ Diner, Conservatory, Kitchen, 2 Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom and Seperate WC, Large Rear Garden, Front Garden and Driveway/ Off Road Parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Edwin Phillips Drive, West Bromwich West Bromwich

An Attractive Modern End Town House. Situated within a quiet cul de sac this property benefits from Central Heating and Double Glazing. Accomodation Comprises- Entrance Hall with Guest Cloaks/ WC, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Master Bedroom with En Suit Shower Room/ WC, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front & Rear and Driveway/ Off Road Parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £134,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Emily Street, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A Splendid Mid Terraced House with an Excellent Town Centre Location. Benefitting From Central Heating and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, 2 Good Size Bedrooms and Long Rear Garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £94,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Charlemont Avenue, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A Delightful Detached Bungalow with a quiet cul de sac position in this very popular residential area. Benefitting from Central Heating, Double Glazing, Intruder Alarm and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises Storm Porch, Hall, Extended Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom/ WC, Block paved Driveway (4 cars) Garage and Extensive Rear Garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £179,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

All Saints Way, West Bromwich West Bromwich

An Attractive Modern Semi Detached with Excellent Location for regular bus services and the hospital. Benefitting From Central Heating, Double Glazing, Intruder Alarmed and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises- Hall, Lounge, Refitted Dining Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom/ WC, Conservatory, Good Sized Garage to the Rear, lawned front garden and south facing rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £144,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Gate Plaza, West Bromwich West Bromwich

A Charming First Floor Apartment within the Ultra Modern Development of West Gate Plaza. Located in the Heart of West Bromwich Town Centre this property offers excellent situation for communications links and local amenities. Benefitting from Central Heating, Double Glazing and Video Intercom System. Accomodation Comprises- Hall, Open Plan Lounge and Kitchen/ Diner, Bathroom/ WC and Master Bedroom. Secure Residents Only Car Park Area to Rear.
OFFERS AROUND: £86,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

St Georges Place, Bratt Street, West Bromwich

A First Floor Maisonette being sold with 70% shared ownership and age restricted for over 55's only. Benefitting from Electric Storage Heating and No Upward Chain. Accomodation comprises- Lounge/ Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom/ WC, Large Bedroom, Communal Parking Area to Rear.
OFFERS AROUND: £37,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

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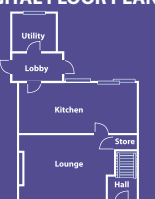

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School Road, Wednesbury — NEW

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating (as specified)
- Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£77,950**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Tame Crossing, Collegefields, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- A Modern 4 Bedroom Detached located on Corner Plot
- Gas Central Heating & UPVc Double Glazing
- Reception Hall & Guest WC
- Lounge & Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: **£239,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Darby Road, Wednesbury

- A 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Centrally Heated
- UPVc Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£109,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Park Lane, Wednesbury

- A Traditional 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Convinient & Popular Location
- Storm Porch & Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£149,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Woden Road East, Wednesbury — REDUCED

- Corner Semi Detached
- Porch Entrance
- Reception Hall
- Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: **£105,000**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Rutland Road, Wednesbury — NEW

- A Well Maintained 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- No Upward Chain!
- Storm Porch & Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£109,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Wood Green Road, Wednesbury

- Attractive 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (where specified)
- Very Spacious Accommodation
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£199,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Myvod Road, Wednesbury — NEW

- A 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall
- Lounge with Feature 'Louis' Fireplace

OFFERS AROUND: **£124,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Cornwall Close — NEW

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
- Gas Centrally Heated & Double Glazed (as specified)
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£99,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Kent Road, Wednesbury — NEW

- A 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- No Upward Chain!
- Reception Hall & Guest WC

Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£99,995**

Queen Street, Moxley, Wednesbury — NEW

- A 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Double Glazed (as specified)
- No Upward Chain!
- In Need of General Upgrade

OFFERS AROUND: **£77,500**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Weston Drive, Woodford Hollow, Tipton

- Well Presented Semi Detached Residence
- Sought After Location
- UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£112,000**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Devon Road, Wednesbury

- A Remarkably Well Presented 1 Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Double Glazing (where specified)
- Gas Central Heating
- Approached via a Secure Communal Entrance with Intercom

OFFERS AROUND: **£64,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Teal Grove, Hawkswood Grange, Wednesbury

- Modern 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Quiet & Popular Housing Estate
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: **£99,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Johnson Road, Wednesbury

- Spacious & Well Presented Semi
- 3 Bedrooms
- Reception Hall & Guest WC
- 17ft Through Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: **£114,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Pinfold Street Extension, Darlaston

- Deceptively Spacious & Much Extended 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Cul-de-Sac Location & No UPward Chain
- Gas Central Heating & UPVc Double Glazing
- Reception Hall & Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND: **£154,950**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Resevoir Passage, Wednesbury

- Extended 3 Bedroom Detached
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Ever Popular Area
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£189,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Hydes Road, Wednesbury

- Substantial 3 Bedroom Edwardian Detached Home
- Original 'Sash' Windows
- Requiring General Upgrade
- Reception Hall with Mintern Tiled Floor & Cellar

OFFERS AROUND: **£214,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Hazel Road, Leabrook, Tipton

- 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)
- Reception Hall

Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£154,995**

Forge Road — NEW

- Presenting an Extended 2 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Ideally Located for Access to Darlaston Town Centre
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£89,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Pemberton Crescent, Wednesbury

- A Well Presented 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Ideally Located for M6 Access
- No Upward Chain!

OFFERS AROUND: **£125,950**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Oakeswell Street, Wednesbury

- A Traditional 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)
- Reception Hall

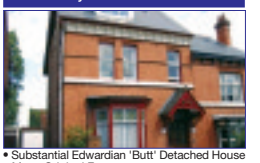
OFFERS AROUND: **£164,950**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Vicarage Road, Wednesbury

- Period End Terrace
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: **£95,000**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Hollies Drive, Wednesbury



- Substantial Edwardian 'Butt' Detached House
- Many Original Features
- 4 Good Bedrooms with En-Suite to Master
- Vestibule Entrance & Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£235,000**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Franchise Street, Wednesbury

- A Much Improved 1st Floor Flat
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Reception Hall
- Lounge with Feature Fireplace

OFFERS AROUND: **£69,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Lodge Road, Wednesbury

- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (As Specified)
- Quiet Location

OFFERS AROUND: **£90,000**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Wakes Road, Wednesbury

- Well Presented 3 Bedroom Semi
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
- Very Highly Presented
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)

Offers Around **£132,950**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Elwell Street, Wednesbury

- A Double Fronted 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall & Guest WC
- Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: **£164,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Constantine Way, Bridgefields, Bilston

- 4 Bedroom Modern Detached Home
- Double-glazing & Gas central heating (as specified)
- Reception Hall & Guest WC
- Lounge with Feature Fireplace

OFFERS AROUND: **£189,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Joynson Street, Kings Hill, Wednesbury

- Individual Character 3 Bedroom Detached
- Reception Hall & Guest WC
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Retaining Many Original Features

OFFERS AROUND: **£165,000**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Bassett Road, Wednesbury

- A 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace Home
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVc Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£84,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Franchise Street, Wednesbury

- well Presented Mid Terrace
- 2 Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: **£94,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Darby Road, Wednesbury

- A Traditional 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- UPVc Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain!
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£119,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Stead Close, Burberry Grange, Tipton

- A Modern 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
- Reception Hall & Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND: **£164,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Maple Avenue, Wednesbury

- A Traditional 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Quiet Cul-de-sac Location with No Upward Chain!
- Centrally Heated & Double Glazed (where specified)
- Generous Corner PLot with Fantastic Secluded Gardens

OFFERS AROUND: **£144,995**
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Bustleholme Lane, West Bromwich

- A 5 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Reception Hall & Guest WC
- Lounge
- Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: **£244,995**
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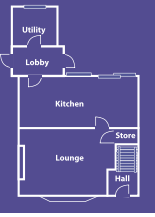

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75 Vicarage Road, West Bromwich 1 Bed Flat
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43 Swancroft Road, Tipton, West Midlands
1 Bed 1st Floor Flat ..... £350.00 PCM
28 Sutton Court, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton, West ..... £350.00 PCM
34 Camberley, Beaconveiw Road, West Bromwich, B71
2bed 4th flr flat, dg ..... £350.00 PCM
43 Cumberland Road, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14
1 Bed Ground Floor Flat ..... £350.00 PCM
18 Salisbury House, Lily Street, West Bromwich, B71
Two Bed Ground Floor Flat ..... £375.00 PCM
18 Austen Walk, West Bromwich, B71 1RD
1 bed, g/f, maisonette ..... £395.00 PCM
24 Briarley, Beaconview Road, West Bromwich, B71
2 Bed 6th Flr Appt ..... £395.00 PCM
25 Moxhull Gardens, Willenhall, West Midlands
2 bed Terrace ..... £400.00 PCM
19 Jefferson Place, West Bromwich, B71 4EY
1 Bed Ground Floor Modern ..... £415.00 PCM
5 Warren Close, Tipton, West Mids, DY4 9PQ ..... £425.00 PCM
11 Trinity View Queen Street, Bilston, WV14 7ER
2 Bed 2nd Floor Apartment ..... £430.00 PCM
19 Trinity View Queen Street, Bilston, WV14 7ER
2 Bed Flat, Dg, Electric Heating ..... £430.00 PCM
9 Short Street, Darlaston WS10 8BS
Two Bed Mid Terraced ..... £450.00 PCM
Flat 7 Manor Flats, High Street, Sedgley, Dudley, West
2 bed First Floor Flat,dg,elec ..... £450.00 PCM
78 Ashley Street, Bilston, West Midlands, WV4 7NN
2 Bed Terr, Gch,dg ..... £450.00 PCM
39 Albany Crescent, Bilston, WV14 0HT
2 Bed Semi With Office / Study ..... £450.00 PCM
16 Bell Street, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 8HZ
2 Bed Terrace ..... £475.00 PCM
26 Manifold Way, Charlemont Hall Park, Wednesbury,
New Two Bedroom, First Floor ..... £475.00 PCM
75 Ivy Road, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 9QN
Three Bed Mid Terraced, Ch, ... £475.00 PCM
29 Jefferson Place, West Bromwich, B71 4EY
A First Floor Appartment ..... £475.00 PCM
83 Anchor Drive, Tipton, DY4 7RD First Floor
2 Bed Flat ..... £475.00 PCM

63 Corporation Street, Wednesbury, West Mids, WS10 ..... £475.00 PCM
29 Alexandra Crescent, West Bromwich, B71 3AG
3 Bed Semi Detached ..... £475.00 PCM
133 Wood Lane, West Bromwich
3 Bed Mid Terr, Fully Furnished ..... £475.00 PCM
363a Willenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 2JR ..... £475.00 PCM
68 St Helens Avenue, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 7LR
2 Bed Terrace ..... £495.00 PCM
9 Johnson Road, Darlaston, Wednesbury, WS10 7NT
3 Bed Mid Terraced, CH & DG ..... £495.00 PCM
8 Talbot Place, Bilston, WV14 0HX ..... £495.00 PCM
148 Toll End Road, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 0ET
3 Bed Terrace ..... £500.00 PCM
39 Lower High Street, Wednesbury, West Midlands,
2 bed Flat, Refurbished ..... £500.00 PCM
24 Sheldon Avenue, Wednesbury, WS10 9DU
3 Bed Semi C/g D/g ..... £525.00 PCM
14 Sheridon Street, West Bromwich, B71 4EF
3 Bedroom Mid Terraced With ..... £525.00 PCM
Flat 2, 63-65 Bustleholme Lane, West Bromwich, B71
2 Bed Ground Floor Flat, Ch, Dg ..... £525.00 PCM
178 Vicarage Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands,
3 Bed Mid Terraced, CH/ DG, ... £525.00 PCM
27 Edward Fisher Drive, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4
2 Bed End Town ..... £525.00 PCM
65 Walsall Road, West Bromwich, B71 3HE
3 Bed End Terraced House, ... £550.00 PCM
30 Welland Grove, Kingfisher, Willenhall, West Midlands
3 Bed Det ..... £550.00 PCM
27 Brook Street, West Bromwich, B70 9HL
3 Bedroom Extended Detached ..... £595.00 PCM
45 Waite Road, Willenhall, WV13 3EZ
3 Bed Semi ..... £595.00 PCM
15 Pepperbox Drive, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 8TR
4 Bed Det, Ch, Dg ..... £650.00 PCM
Plot 26 5, Farm End Close, West Bromwich, West
A Three Bedroom Modern Town ..... £650.00 PCM
81 Edgbaston Road, Smethwick, Birmingham, B66 4LF ..... £795.00 PCM
6 Mathon Lodge Stockwell End, Tettenhall,
Two Bedroom Luxury ..... £800.00 PCM
73 Smithmore Crescent, West Bromwich, B71 3ES
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● A Modern Semi Detached Property
● Three Bedrooms
● Freehold
● Double Glazing & Central Heating
£110,000

HODDER GROVE, B71 3RZ

● A Three Storey End Townhouse
● Four Bedrooms
● Two En-Suites, Bathroom
● C/H & D/G, Freehold, Alarmed
£205,000

LYNDHURST ROAD, B71 3JF

● A Semi Detached Property
● Three Bedrooms
● Two Reception Rooms
● C/H & D/G, Freehold
£149,995

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

● A Mid Terrace Property
● Two/Three Bedroomed
● Two Reception Rooms
● Downstairs Shower Room
£112,500

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HYUNDAI i10

ROAD TEST

City car small, but no lightweight

For all the doom and gloom of 2010, one car brand shone extra bright: Hyundai.

Although it's happy to acknowledge that the Government's scrappage scheme played its part, it does help if you have the right product in the first place.

Post-scrappage the company is still doing great business, and nowhere is this more obvious than with the little i10.

It feels like an age away since buyers were prepared to wait months for the diminutive hatchback, but they all knew what they were doing.

And, just to prove that you can't afford to stand still in this business, Hyundai has given the already successful i10 hatchback a mild refresh in a bid to keep it ahead of the pack.

It's surprisingly capable on the road

The cabin is spacious and refined

Small yet perfectly formed – Hyundai's refreshed i10 is both attractive and affordable

Nose

Cosmetically the i10 benefits from Hyundai's new family nose. This design theme is already present on the larger ix35, and is set to be the norm on future models. On the mechanical front the car's 1.2-litre petrol motor is now cleaner, more efficient and more powerful. Also, replacing the 1.1-litre unit is a new three-cylinder, 68bhp 1.0-litre engine. This forms the basis of Hyundai's eco-centric i10 Blue variant.

This high-tech three-cylinder engine achieves an impressive 67.3mpg on the combined cycle and boasts a congestion charge and VED-friendly 99g/km CO2 rating.

Even if you don't live in or plan on making regular trips to London to offset the Blue variant's slightly higher price, the 85bhp 1.2 unit delivers 61.4mpg and an equally impressive 108g/km CO2 rating. Engine stop-start technology is also thrown in.

The i10 is something of a refreshing surprise in what is an incredibly competitive market. What makes it special is Hyundai's decision to treat its mini model as something bigger. You only have to look around the car's cabin to realise that you can leave your hair shirt at home.

You want air conditioning? No problem. Electric front windows? Absolutely. Somewhere to plug in your MP3 player? You bet. Seriously, this is what the i10 is really like – anything but a budget runabout – and it's one of the reasons why buyers flocked to the outgoing model in their droves.

It might appear no larger than most other cars on the market but appearances are deceptive. Five doors are the norm here, yet the i10 is easily able to accommodate four adults. Substitute two of the grown-ups for children and you could even be looking at your first family car.

The i10 is also more capable on the road than you might think. With its direct and accurate steering, supple ride and refined cabin, it would appear that compromise has been ripped out of Hyundai's corporate dictionary.

With its eager hum and refined character, the 1.2-litre i10 is more than capable of keeping up with the rush hour traffic and never feels out of place on the motorway. And the unit's eager nature makes light work of the point-and-squirt urban environment.

There's no question that the engine's added oomph and the slick five-sped manual gearbox helps. A four-speed auto is also available for the 1.2 variant.

Cousin

The i10 Blue isn't far behind, either. It gets by with less power but the three-pot motor's willingness easily outweighs any on paper deficiencies.

The i10 Blue is more of a city car than its more powerful four-cylinder cousin, but never feels out of puff away from the city limits. The i10 is a good car – it drives well, feels solid and is exceptionally practical. That it comes equipped more like an entry-level family hatch is a bonus. Add the five-year warranty and it's clear that this i10 is no lightweight.

IAIN DOOLEY

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Model: Hyundai i10 1.0 Blue, from £9,195 on the road. i10 range from £8,195.

Engine: 1.0-litre petrol unit developing 68bhp.

Transmission: Five-speed manual transmission as standard, driving the front wheels.

Performance: Maximum speed 93mph, 0-62mph 14.8 seconds.

Economy: 67.3mpg.

CO2 rating: 99g/km.

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Electric concept vehicle from Smart puts emphasis on fun

There's no roof but the Forspeed does come with a tonneau cover which offers protection against both rain and sun

Two-seater open-top unveiled at Geneva

SMART is unveiling an unconventional open-top concept car at the Geneva Motor Show.

The Forspeed combines contemporary urban mobility with the fun factor typical of Smart. The two-seater has no roof or side windows and it features a low wind deflector instead of a windscreen in the style of a classic propeller aircraft.

The result is an incomparable fresh air driving experience. The responsive electric drive that has been further developed and features a boost function also guarantees driving pleasure. A look forward at the next generation is particularly exciting as the era of electric mobility has already started at Smart.

Dr Annette Winkler, head of Smart says: "The Smart Forspeed is a completely new take on how much fun it is to drive electric. It boasts a superb design with a powerful drive system and, needless to say, locally emission-free."

Pioneer

Smart is a pioneer in modern electric mobility. The second generation Fortwo Electric Drive has been available since the end of 2009 and is proving its suitability for everyday use in 18 countries including Germany, Italy, Spain, UK, France, Switzerland, the USA, Canada and further countries in Asia.

Due to the high demand production figures have been increased to 1,500 vehicles. Thanks to this experience Smart has collected extensive customer feedback that has been used for the development of the Forspeed's electric drive. With its improved performance and charge management the concept vehicle offers a look at the performance potential of future generations of the electric Smart.

The Forspeed accelerates from 0 to 37 mph in just 5.5 seconds and reaches a top speed of 75mph. A 30 kW magneto-electric motor is installed at the rear of the concept, providing an immediate, powerful response from stationary.

Pressing a button in the centre console activates a boost function which provides an extra 5 kW of power for a short time and is ideal for overtaking manoeuvres on urban highways, for example.

The Forspeed is powered by a lithium-ion battery that is sufficient for 84 miles of driving. Quick charging from zero charge to 80 per cent takes just 45 minutes.

The whole interior can be protected against rain and sun when necessary with a tonneau cover.

It is easy to stretch it over the interior and fasten it to the body with the straps. It can be divided in the middle with the help of a zip to free the driver's seat only, for example.

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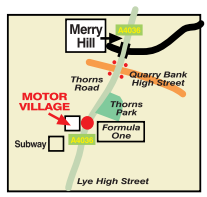

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2008/08 Vauxhall Corsa 1.0 Life 3 Door Hatchback, Black Sapphire, 22104 miles £6490
2010/10 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SE 3 Door Hatchback, Silver, 5000 miles £9000
2010/60 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Design 5 Door Hatchback, Black Sapphire, 20 miles £10490
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2008/08 Chevrolet Matiz 0.8 S Hatchback, Super Red, 16500 miles £4000
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2008/58 Citroen C2 1.1 Cachet 3 Door Hatchback, Sport Red, 24500 miles £6490
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2005/05 Citroen C2 1.6 VTS Hatchback, Arctic Steel, 38386 miles £5490
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2009/09 Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.4 Kiwi Convertible, Lacerta Yellow Green,10980 miles £9000
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2007/07 Citroen Berlingo 1.6 HDi 600 Car Derived Van, Red, 47500 miles ..... £4690+VAT
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Offers are available for registrations between 04.01.11 and 31.03.11 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). *Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 emissions: 324 - 94g/km.

Offers are available for registrations between 04.01.11 and 31.03.11 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). *Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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*Price shown is for GEN-2 ecoLogic 1.6 GSX MT; manufacturer's list price £11,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. GEN-2 ecoLogic models with automatic transmission are registered by Proton prior to conversion. ^Free leather offer ends 31st March 2011 and is available on GEN-2 GSX models only. Available at participating dealers only and excludes Motability and Fleet sales. ±Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply.

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BMW 318I
2001, 51,000 miles, dark blue, abs, e/w, a/bag, alarm, long MoT, auto, central locking, pas, tax, alloys, stereo, CD, petrol, immaculate.
£3,950 ono.
07976 389405.

BMW 320I SE, 2006(56), 30,500 miles approx, colour Arctic, please call for full details, beautiful car throughout, £11,250 ono. 01939 210655.
BMW 330CI auto, (52), silver, black leather, BMW fsh, tax/MoT, immaculate condition. £6,495 ono. 07961 842984 (Brewood).

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CITROEN XSARA PICASSO VTX
2008, 19,500miles, silver, abs, e/w, e/m, fsh, 11 months MoT, c/l, 1 lady owner, pas, 5 months tax, alloys, petrol.
£5,995 ono.
01902 739858.

FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE
08 reg, moondust silver, 12,500 miles, long MoT, Ford service history, lady owner, genuine reason for sale.
£6,900 ono.
07815 792356 (Walsall).

FORD FOCUS Estate 1.8L Ghia, 2001, 85,700 miles, silver, AC, CL, pas, stereo, petrol, new clutch, long MoT, £1,800. 01922 685889.

FORD KA 1.3
2005 55 reg, 29,000 miles, metallic silver, MoT and Tax, 3 door, petrol, KA CD player, fully serviced, excellent condition. Sale due to injury.
£2,300.
Telephone 01543 257657.

FORD KA, 2006, 28,600 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, tax, CD, petrol, £2,550 ono. 07879 581745.

MINI 1275 auto, red, 1995, M reg, genuine 17,000 miles, 7 months MoT, tax, completely original, £2,150 ono. 01922 445548.

MINI COOPER, 03 reg, 77k miles, fsh, tax, MoT, s/r, e/w, c/l, alloys, immaculate condition, £4,095. 01922 701723 or 07831 325174.

MITSUBISHI COLT CZ2 AMT, 07 reg, 5dr, inc extras, 8k, 12 months MoT, fsh, light blue, excellent condition. £4,995. 01384 212269.

PEUGEOT 107 Dolce 1.4, 2007, 4 months tax and MoT, 40k, very good condition, £2,800. 07578 022476 or 0121 544 3784.

PEUGEOT 107 1.0 URBAN
57/08, 11,500 miles, black, 12 months MoT, 5 door, hatchback, petrol, manual, excelent condition, one lady owner, tax only £20 per year.
£4,700 ono.
07802 411248.

PROTON WIRA 1.5 LXi
03/53 reg, 5dr, metallic light gold, PAS, CL, EW, 1 owner, Proton FSH, last serviced 500 miles ago, only 20,100 miles, MoT October, superb car.
£1,650 ono.
01543 682965 or 07967 445429.

RENAULT CLIO 172 LIMITED EDITION
Y reg, 45,000 miles, green, electric windows, electric mirrors, MoT, central locking, alloys, leather interior.
£2,200.
01902 791893.

RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 16V SPORT TOURER ESTATE
55 reg, grey, alloys, CD player, half leather, climate control, MoT Sept 2011, tax Mar, 86,000 miles, FSH, rear load cover and guard, all usual electric extra's, excellent condition in/out.
£2,495 ono.
May PX for 4 x 4.
07879 291800. Rowley Regis.

RENAULT SCENIC, 05, 52k, Diesel, e/w, e/m a/c, CD changer, auto lights/wipers/handbrake, silver, long tax and MoT, £3,995. 07770 850580.

SAAB 95 2.0 VECTOR, 2004, Petrol, Auto, Saloon, Silver, 70k, Tax, full MoT, Saab FSH, £2,995. o.n.o. 07973 733598/0121 552 1793.

SEAT IBIZA 1.4, March 08, 3 door, 6,500 miles, black, e/fw, climate, a/c, fsh, MoT, tax, c/l, alloys, CD, 1 lady owner, £5,800 ono. 07591 216981.

SUBARU FORRESTER ESTATE
05 reg, awd, 68k, silver, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, Cat 1 alarm, MoT July, CD, 2 litre petrol. **£3,995 ono.**
07759 244735.

★ **SUBARU IMPREZA** Sports Special awd X reg 65k abs ew em ac fsh tax MoT el pas alloys CD £1,950 ono. 07880 645631.

TOYOTA hilux 2002, 139,000 alarm, new tyres, truckman top, load liner, cd/radio, MoT, taxed, good condition , green, dbl cab, £4,995 ono. 07875 102867

TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO, 06, 37,000miles, fsh, long MoT, 1owner, tax, alloys, petrol, DVD, £6,950 ono. 01939 261519.

TOYOTA RAV4 2001 3dr, silver, 2 owners, 55,000 miles, 12 mnths MoT, very good condition, petrol £3,600 ono 01922 408816 after 6.30pm.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2SXi, 04 reg, 43,000 miles, black, alloys, petrol, 11 months tax, MoT July 2011, excellent condition, £2,600. 01543 502727.

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£1,550
07964 147450.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, 2004/54, Mot, Tax'd, 56,000 K, alloys, new censor, cambelt, excellent condition. £2,500. 01889 577465 / 07875 642691

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2SXi, (55), 57,000 miles, MoT/tax, grey, very good condition. £2,400. 07887 565561.

VAUXHALL CORSA SRi, 1.4 twinport, 54 reg., MoT'd, tax, spearmint green, 40,000 miles, excellent, £3,300. 07805 936469.

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 54 reg, 56,000 miles, silver, MoT Sept, 6 months tax. £2,750 ono. Telephone 01922 644039.

VAUXHALL SIGNUM Elite, 2004 (54), 1.9 TD, 39k, blue, MoT, Sat Nav, AC, leather. Excellent condition. £4,290. 01922 476791.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8, 02 reg, tax/MoT, fsh, good condition, £1925 ono. 07984 654549.

VOLKSWAGEN 1.2 POLO Match 70, 2009, 18,500 miles, anthracite grey, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, tax, alloys, CD, first MoT Jan 2012, £6,995. 01543 500803.

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Auto, 55 plate, including Parrot Bluetooth, long MoT, tax May.
£6,500.
07889 725095.

VW FOX 1.4
Sept 2006, 8,700 miles, grey, abs, air bag, fsh, MoT, one owner, pas, tax Oct, CD, petrol, excellent condition, must be seen.
£4,150 ono.
01939 234192.

VW GOLF GTi 2.0
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07925 510475. (Walsall)

VW PASSAT, 02, petrol, 78,000 miles, black, e/m, e/w, c/l, a/c, CD, alarm, alloys, tinted windows, MoT Aug, no road tax, £2,299 ono. 07971 984186.

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FIAT PUNTO 2002, 1.2 petrol, 52,000 miles, MoT July, FSH, 5 door. £1,485 ono. 07850 213231

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FORD FOCUS W reg., excellent condition, tax, MoT.
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FORD KA 1300 2003, 03 reg, f.s.h, MoT, radio cassette, any trial, 1 previous owner from new. £1,195. 07968 364194.

FORD MONDEO Ghia X, S Regn, sunroof, leather seats, MoT, new discs, pads, catalytic converter, service. £750. 07974 959855

HONDA ACCORD VETEC S, 1.8 Petrol, 51 reg, silver, LPG conversion, excellent condition. £1,000. 07903 202079.

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★ **OPEL CORSA** 1.2 new shape 51 plate, Bronze, 10 mths MoT, tax March, excellent, ideal 1st car £1,195 ono. 07747 101368

PEUGEOT 106 Zest 2, 02 plate, 59k, ice blue, 12 months MoT, 1 month tax, petrol, lady owner, 2nd owner, CD, e/w c/l, very good condition, £1,400. 07792 098174.

PEUGEOT 206 1.1, 3-door, 02 reg, MoT. Good condition, £1,500. o.n.o. 07951 224740 (Cannock).

ROVER 25 02 reg, tax/MoT till August, 66,000 miles, £1,350 ono. 0121 568 6547.

★ **ROVER 600 Si 2L** R reg, petrol, very reliable, nice car. Tax March, MoT June. £400 ono. 07835 600873.

SAAB 9.5SE ESTATE Petrol, 2000, 2296cc, green, MoT Sept, no tax. £1,000 ovno. 0121 531 1228.

SEAT IBIZA CHILL
2002, 95,000 miles, red, electric windows, air bag, air con, full service history, central locking, pas, stereo, petrol, good runner.
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01443 839178 (after 6pm).

TOYOTA COROLLA 2001, blue, three door, Taxed May, MoT November,£1300. 0121 588 2889

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 16v GLS, 5 door, green, X reg, 58,450 miles, 12 months MoT, £1,395 ono. 01902 755204.

VAUXHALL CORSA 5dr, 1.4, N Reg, 60,000 miles, MoT May, tax March. £350 ono.
Telephone 01785 716339.

VOLVO S40 51 reg, dual fuel from manufacture, 140 miles to £10 (average), MoT, fair condition, £795. 07507 682480.

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HONDA NSR 125RR, R reg, 12 months MoT and 6 months tax, Repsol Race Replica, £900 ono. 07927 583436.

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It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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public & legal notices

LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

An application for a Premises Licence has been made by Mr G Singh to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council in respect of premises known as Victoria Park, which are situated at High Street, Cape Hill

The proposed application is as follows:

Live Music - Sunday 3rd July 2011 from 10.00 to 18.00

A record of the application may be inspected at the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Licensing Section, Development House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich during normal office hours Monday to Friday.

Any representations by interested parties or responsible authorities regarding the application must be made in writing to: The Licensing Team, Environment House, PO Box 42, Lombard Street West Bromwich, B70 8RU by the 4/04/2011

Public Notice

I, Marian Nora Iommi, divorcee of Moorside Road Yardley Wood Birmingham B14, intend to marry John Patrick McTiernan, divorcee of Glen Rise, Kings Heath, Birmingham B13 at Civil Registry Office, Oranjested, Aruba on 31/5/11. Any person knowing of any lawful impediment to the marriage should without delay notify:

Certificate of No Impediment
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public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL
(TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FOOTPATH BETWEEN DAGGER LANE AND HALLAM STREET, WEST BROMWICH) ORDER 2011

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell in accordance with the provisions of Sections 14 and 15 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any pedestrian from proceeding in the Public Right of Way which leads from Dagger Lane to Hallam Drive, West Bromwich.
2. The alternative route for pedestrians will be via Church Vale, Hallam Street, Hallam Drive and vice versa.
3. The purpose and reason for the Order is to facilitate resurfacing works to the footpath.
4. The Order will take effect on 7th March 2011, and it is anticipated that the works may commence on that day. The works are expected to be completed on 11th March 2011. However, the Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 6 months, unless extended for a longer period with the approval of the Secretary of State, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
5. Any queries about the works to take place should be directed to Martin Dawtry of NHS Trust on telephone number 0121 612 8010.

DATED this 3rd day of March 2011

N SHARMA
Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House
Oldbury
West Midlands

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL
(HALES WAY, OLDBURY)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2011

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell intends, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 14 and 15 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in Hales Way, Oldbury, in its entirety.
2. The purpose and reason for the Order is to facilitate the removal of a tree which is located close to overhead power lines.
3. The Order will take effect on Monday 28th March 2011, and it is anticipated that the works may commence on that day between the hours of 9.30am and 4.00pm and the same times on the following day. The works are expected to be completed on Tuesday 29th March 2011. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the works to take place should be directed to Lawrence Monkton of Fountains, on behalf of National Grid, on telephone number 01295 753 233. Any queries about the effect of the order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Keith Sansom, Traffic and Road Safety Manager, Environment House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich, B70 8RU (Telephone 0121 569 4149).

DATED this 3rd day of March 2011

N SHARMA
Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House
Oldbury, West Midlands

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF SANDWELL
(CHARLOTTE ROAD, WEDNESBURY)
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2011

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell intends, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 14 and 15 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in Charlotte Road, Wednesbury, from its junction with Willingsworth Road to its junction with Jenkinson Road.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Willingsworth Road, Jenkinson Road and vice versa.
3. The purpose and reason for the Order is to facilitate the relining of a structurally deficient sewer.
4. The Order will take effect on Monday 21st March 2011, and it is anticipated that the works may commence on that day. The works are expected to be completed on Thursday 24th March 2011. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
5. Any queries about the works to take place should be directed to Andrew Crockett of Enterprise on behalf of Severn Trent Water on telephone number 0800 521 660. Any queries about the effect of the order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Keith Sansom, Traffic and Road Safety Manager, Environment House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich, B70 8RU (Telephone 0121 569 4149).

DATED this 3rd day of March 2011

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Sandwell Council House
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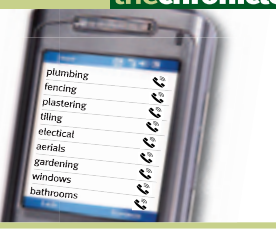

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30YRS old curvy black female, seeks older male for easy nights in. ACA Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 957149

SICK of watching Saturday night TV all alone! Divorced female in need of male company with fun easygoing guy to appreciate. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 958807

FED up with lonely nights! Blonde, blue eyed, sociable widow, WLTM someone for easy nights in and TLC. Any age/status/size. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959785

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PROFESSIONAL independent lady 40, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with C/SOH for companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959397

BRIGHT bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, sense and feel me. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959295

WHITE 50's genuine modern West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks fit modern male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 958865

FEMALE 5', slim, 5st 4lbs, genuine, caring, seeks special male who is genuine and caring. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959781

DO you know what women want? 49yr old petite lady needs spoiling and loads of love by attractive male 45-55s. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 927573

SLIM professional, attractive, sensible lady, 50s, seeks genuine, affectionate, professional man, 55-plus with C/SOH and enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959417

ATTRACTIVE 40yr old female, brunette, slim, lovely smile, high morals, seeks similar male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 919619

OPEN friendly Christian female, professional, seeks kind, caring Christian male for friendship and more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 958867

SLIM attractive 48yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 947401

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 927579

HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 35-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959709

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-35 to enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 917945

LADY N/S, non-smoker, seeks honest retired gent with self contained address for friendship/days out and holidays. Stourbridge. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 954733

ATTRACTIVE mum, 40, 5ft 5ins, curvaceous, walks, country, WLTM attractive male of similar age for friendship maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 947479

SINGLE mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Dudley. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959035

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 904735

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55YR old male, 5ft 10ins, widower, laidback, old school gent, likes history, reading, places of interest, seeks female. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959181

MALE young active 38, 5ft, black hair, N/S, non drinker, N/S, likes most things, seeks female, 30-38, attractive and slim for romantic future. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959159

BRIAN single chef, likes pool, cinema, football, seeks female for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 908121

SENSITIVE bestie, 5ft 9 male, attractive, likes art, travel, gym, seeks slim, attractive, N/S female to enjoy meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 911407

OK kind of a guy, 5ft 9, looks and styled younger, good standard of living, like to share with slim, attractive, N/S female. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 946824

MODERN attractive 50's male, stylish, seeks slim, attractive, N/S female, 40-50 to share better lifestyle. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 914340

40YR old divorced male, seeks female, any age for friendship maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 907041

ROBERT slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 912443

33YR old single male, seeks similar aged female. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959753

THOUGHTFUL attractive, sporty gentleman, grey 38, C/HAC, good job, seeks attractive female, 25-45. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 922921

MALE 35, C/HAC, good job, likes pubs, clubs, meals out, cinema, sports, seeks female, 27-39 with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959072

ATTRACTIVE male, 58, fit, N/S, C/HAC, like wine, bars, theatre, dancing, seeks attractive slim female, 50-58 for lasting relationship. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959699

MALE 55, likes pubs, sports, meals out, travel, holidays, seeks female, 50-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959697

PROFESSIONAL N/S gentleman, likes tennis, gardening, painting, searching for an intelligent, slim, kind, faithful lady for LTR. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959379

MALE 44, medium build, likes motorsport, seeks special lady. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 948227

ACTIVE 39yr old, slim, dark hair, loves life, many interests, seeks female for friendship maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 952753

ANDY 44, average build, likes country walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeks special lady for serious relationship. Tel/txt. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 980255

ROB 48, N/S, attractive, romantic, good fun, WLTM attractive female, 40-47 for nights out, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 784708

ATTRACTIVE male, 50, seek naughty lady for flirty texts fun. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 980097

STEVE 47, medium build, seeks female for nights in, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 958981

STOP! Size 12, confident, seeks high heeled, female for fun and adventure. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 227203

HELP! Info, help! Inexperienced CD, 52, seeks understanding female for fun and excitement. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 229027

CHARMING fit 49yr old professional male, seeks lively caring companion for friendship and fun. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959045

TALL handsome male, 47, C/SOH, likes romantic days/nights in/out, WLTM attractive, down to earth, young lady, 35-55s, size unimportant. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 949811

52YR old male, fit, young looking, seeks female for swinging/dating, days out and spoil. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959287

YOUNG male, seeks female for romance and relationship Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959785

RICHARD easygoing, slim, blue eyes, brown hair, likes meals out, pubs, karaoke, nights in, music, seeks like-minded, laidback, lady female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959833

gay/friends seeking

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 971302

MARK 42, seeks guy 18-35 for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 981247

GAY male, 34, seeks similar guy male, 18-30 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 498 6582 Box No: 959301

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Young in impressive form as Villa run riot

VILLA 4
BLACKBURN 1

GERARD Houllier plans spending the summer scouring Europe for transfer targets but persuading Ashley Young to sign on the dotted line would be his biggest coup.

Young was brilliant against Blackburn as he inspired Villa to a deserved victory, scoring two goals and intelligently creating another but it was the manner of his all-round performance and relentless work-rate which really impressed.

If Villa are serious about progress on the pitch then they must do everything they can to convince Young that his future lies with the claret and blues. For his part, Young again played a straight bat over where he plans to be next season when he spoke to the media afterwards.

"I have always said I will leave talks until the end of the season and that's how it still is," he said.

In front of watching England coach Fabio Capello the midfielder once again lit up a grey afternoon at Villa Park with a performance that oozed international class.

After a first half of huge frustration, Young was the one player who brought that touch of quality in the second which allowed Villa to romp to victory by such a comfortable margin.

If Young does leave in the summer then the professionalism he has displayed throughout this campaign must be recognised by supporters, and you would hope there would be no bitterness towards him should he decide his future lies elsewhere.

The 25-year-old has always given 100 per cent to the Villa cause. He has arguably been the player of the season so far and would leave with a heavy heart.

Cynics will argue that he is only playing well to enhance his chances of a move away – and that may well play a part – but his performances will only increase the value of his price tag.

A move abroad seems unlikely given that he has a young family, so that leaves the two Manchester teams, Liverpool plus a selection of London clubs vying for his signature.

The player has sold his house in the West Midlands and commutes from his home in Hertfordshire which would hint that if he is going anywhere then it is back down south.

Young's father supported Tottenham – arguably the club most likely to bid for his services – but the player himself was an Arsenal fan, although such loyalties matter to all but a few players in the modern game.

Undoubtedly there has been an improvement in the body language of Young since the arrival of striker Darren Bent at the club which has signalled Villa's intent to progress on the pitch.

The likelihood is that Young would get less chance to play his favoured central role if he switched clubs so that is another feather in Houllier's cap.

Punched

It was in such a position that Young set up a chance for Bent in the 10th minute of Saturday's game which saw Rovers goalkeeper Paul Robinson make a smart save from a low shot.

Houllier was forced to replace Nathan Baker with Fabian Delph in the 36th minute after the defender was accidentally punched in the head by Rovers goalkeeper Robinson as he challenged for a Downing free-kick.

Villa continued to look the most likely team to score before the interval and neat build-up play involving Ciaran Clark and Young allowed Robert Pires to sting the fingers of Robinson with a shot from distance.

The Frenchman's last start came in an FA Cup victory over Blackburn, a game in which he scored and finally made a telling contribution in a Villa shirt, and this performance was equally deserving of praise.

Despite appearing to 'run like someone's mum on a school sports day' as one wag in the press box put it, Pires used the ball intelligently and had a hand in everything Villa did well.

Bent had a great chance just before the interval when he latched on to a errant back-pass from Morten Gamst Pedersen but took too many touches and New Zealand international Ryan Nelsen – playing just days after his home city of Christchurch was reduced to rubble in an earthquake – was able to intercept and clear to safety.

Blackburn had their first meaningful effort straight after half-time when Richard Dunne's poor touch allowed Jermaine Jones to break clear and Brad Friedel saved a powerful low drive with his legs.

It was Villa, though, who took the lead four minutes after the interval after Young harried Keith Andrews inside the Blackburn area and dispossessed him near the byline.

Just as Young was about to cross Andrews clumsily manhandled him to the ground and this time referee Martin Atkinson showed no hesitation in pointing to the spot.

Young dusted himself down and confidently sent Robinson the wrong way with a low effort into the bottom-left corner of the net to register Villa's 500th Premier League goal.

Houllier's side then doubled their advantage when a Stewart Downing corner was picked up by Marc Albrighton on the left flank and his cross deflected off the shin of Hanley and past Robinson.

Villa effectively made the points safe on the counter-attack shortly afterwards when Pires released Young down the right and he beat Nelsen – who subsequently clattered into him to earn a yellow card – to the ball to send Downing clear.

The winger ran straight for goal and cut inside on to his left foot before showing great composure to curl the ball past Robinson from inside the penalty area.

Blackburn pulled a goal back when Nikola Kalinic's shot from distance deflected off the unfortunate Dunne and looped over keeper Friedel but Villa added a fourth to put the result beyond any doubt a minute later.

Downing broke free on the left-hand side and he rolled the ball across the box to Young, who emphatically swept the ball home a few yards to the right of the penalty spot.

There was still time for Rover skipper Nelsen to receive his marching orders for another foul on Young but Villa cared little as they sent the masses home happy.

Ashley Young enjoys his trademark celebration after netting his second goal *Pictures: James Marsh*

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Bragoli comes to rescue for Tipton with injury-time penalty

LOUGHBOROUGH UNI 1
TIPTON TOWN 1

AN injury-time penalty from captain Danny Bragoli earned Tipton a deserved share of the spoils at Loughborough University.

Tipton were missing Jozsef Jakab from the starting line-up but Ross Brown returned the side.

The hosts came storming out of the blocks early on, Michael Emmerson was denied by a fine Matt Sargeant save inside the first minute and moments later Sargeant made another great stop to deny Raul Alexis.

There was nothing the keeper could do two minutes later as the home side took the lead, Emmerson's cross picked out Alexis at the back post and he rose highest to nod home from six yards out.

Eventually Tipton began to find their feet as Eric Bowen headed a Marcus Jackson cross wide and Jackson fired over from distance.

As the game approached half-time Bragoli came as close as anyone to levelling the score. Another Jackson cross was not cleared, Bragoli aimed goalwards but the ball clipped the crossbar and went over the top.

After the break another fine save from Sargeant kept McCall's free-kick out as it headed for the top corner.

Level

At the other end Tipton fashioned two excellent chances to draw level. Jackson's free-kick was spilt by the keeper but Danny Campbell was unable to convert the rebound. Campbell again had a chance two minutes later when he headed Alex Cowley's cross wide.

A hand ball from Josh McIntyre was somehow missed by the officials as Tipton were turned down what seemed a certain penalty.

The visitors continued to push forward and press the home side back and it looked like Loughborough would hold on until there was one final twist.

Cameron Jones was wrestled to the floor by a combination of McIntyre and Thomas Peberdy and straight away the assistant referee flagged for a penalty.

As tempers flared McIntyre saw red but Tipton skipper Bragoli composed himself to tuck away the spot-kick.

Fanfare for Bustle's Trumpeter

BUSTLEHOLME 3
SHAWBURY 0

BUSTLEHOLME continued their good run of form with what turned out to be a comfortable victory against Shawbury that keeps them third in the West Midlands Premier.

In windy conditions and on a boggy pitch the first half ended goalless.

But on the hour a Rob Sargent run ended with a pass to Ryan Trumpeter, he fed Adam Wattley who broke the deadlock with a smart finish

Fifteen minutes later Bustleholme doubled their lead when Trumpeter found Matty Jukes unmarked and he finished.

With five minutes left Jukes beat the Shawbury offside trap and crossed for Jamie Clews to finish from close range.

TALKING POINT

THE ARMBAND: Gerard Houllier opted to start with Robert Pires ahead of captain Stiliyan Petrov in the centre of midfield. Houllier maintains Petrov has a part to play but surely starting the Frenchman indicates the Villa skipper is no longer first choice. Ashley Young has had the armband for the past few weeks and when Petrov came on he allowed Young to keep it.

A changing of the guard perhaps?

Next three games…

MAN CITY (A) MAR 2
Last night Villa were heading into the FA Cup fifth round tie brimming with confidence and keen to exorcise the demons of their 4-0 defeat at Eastlands.

BOLTON (A) MAR 5
Wanderers have had a fine season and Villa will do well to come away with three points from the Reebok Stadium.

WOLVES (H) MAR 19
Mick McCarthy's side have only won one game away from home all season but Villa would be foolish to take anything for granted against their West Midlands rivals.

Robert Pires challenges Rovers' Keith Andrews at Villa Park

SPEEDWAY

Like father like son Heathens are ready to go

ALES Dryml is following in his father's footsteps by joining Birmingham for the new era of Elite League racing at Perry Barr.

Dryml completes the Brummies line-up which falls just below the 40-point average limit which governs team building throughout the league. And the move will revive memories of the early 80s at the old Perry Barr, now the One Stop Shopping Centre, when Dryml's father, Ales senior, rode for the club.

"I've raced for many clubs in England now and I must say I am very pleased to be fixed up with a fine club like Birmingham," he said. "I haven't been to the stadium but I have heard good things about it and the manager, Graham Drury, has impressed me when we have held talks.

"I have heard it's a good track and one which many riders enjoy. I am looking forward to making it my home track.

"I am looking forward to practice day and hopefully I can get some good laps in before our first meeting."

Boss Drury is pleased to get his man and feels his completed line-up, which falls within a fraction of the points limit, has plenty of potential. He said: "I told Ales I would meet him at Perry Barr and show him around but he said there was no need, he's heard enough about the place from other people within the sport. He said it would be nice if he could do two or three years on the trot with one club .

"I can confirm press and practice will be on Thursday, March 10, at noon with the public welcome to spectate. And in the evening at 8pm there will be a forum in the main bar at the stadium.

"Then it's all systems go for the new era of racing with Wolverhampton coming to us the following Thursday. It's getting very close and I personally cannot wait."

Brummies 2011 Elite League Squad: Rene Bach, Ben Barker, Ales Dryml, Krysztof Kasprzak, Daniel King, Daniel Nermark, Claus Vissing, Kevin Wolbert, James Wright.

DUDLEY Heathens have completed their 2011 speedway line-up with one old face and one new one.

Richard Franklin returns from last season's side and is joined by 21-year-old Luke Chessell, who will track at reserve with Darryl Ritchings.

The names were revealed by team boss Will Pottinger at a sold-out Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Friday night.

"We wanted to try to keep as many riders as possible from last year's team," said Pottinger.

"Richard is only 18 and still has development in him.

"Luke contacted me in the winter and was very keen to ride for us," he added. "He impressed me during the British under-21 semi-final when he was a last corner away from qualifying for the final. He's keen to put points on his average and he will be at reserve with Darryl. We think that will be one of the strongest pairings in the league."

High-profile signing Adam Roynon made the trip down from Barrow to meet the fans and admitted he was astonished by the turnout.

"After signing for Dudley I got 30 emails in the first hour and I was sick of my phone going off, to be honest," said the Cumbrian.

"It was a really warm welcome and just shows what the support is like here.

"I walked in here before and saw all the people queuing – I couldn't believe how many people were here.

"It's so good for a team with this sort of history."

Roynon will be doubling up with Redcar but reassured the Heathens fans on his availability for matches.

"I spoke to Brian Havelock (Redcar team manager) and told him I want to do all the Dudley fixtures," he added.

"He said: 'No problem, I'll try to work the dates around.'"

Dudley also unveiled their 2011 race jacket, a retro/modern mix which features the old Cradley United linked chain as a nod to the area's historic chainmaking industry.

Lions start by hosting Leicester

SANDWELL Lions Cycle Speedway Club's first Midland League match of the season will be against Leicester (1pm start) on Sunday, March 20, at the Lower City Road track in Tividale. The club has been saddened by the news of the death of club stalwart Sue Palmer, mother of rider Jim.

New record

BIRCHFIELD Harrier Gemma Werrett raced to a new Scottish record of 8.34 in the 60m hurdles at the McCain City Challenge in Cardiff on Saturday. Werrett helped Birmingham Falcons finish second out of eight.

thechronicle

sport

Carlos Vela celebrates his point-salvaging goal at the Britannia, which also sent rivals Wolves back into the drop zone, but Stoke defender Ryan Shawcross protests

Fuller handshake flare up ignited Olsson fireworks

BAGGIES winger Jerome Thomas has defended team-mate Jonas Olsson after the defender smashed a picture following a row in the Stoke tunnel.

The fiery Sweden international became involved in a bizarre bust-up with Stoke striker Ricardo Fuller following Monday night's dramatic 1-1 draw and in frustration smashed the glass in a picture of the Britannia Stadium in the dressing room.

Stoke boss Tony Pulis blasted the Baggies centre-back while Albion head coach Roy Hodgson said his club would pay for the damage. But Thomas played down the rumpus.

Thomas said: "I just heard that Jonas went to shake Ricardo Fuller's hand after the game and he didn't give him his hand. Everyone wants to win and Jonas is a big character and we know what kind of character Ricardo Fuller is.

"I know him personally and he's a good guy but I also know he's a winner and for whatever reason he didn't want to shake Jonas's hand. Jonas wasn't happy with that but it's nothing serious."

Offside

Tempers erupted in the tunnel with Stoke unhappy over Albion's 87th-minute equaliser. Replays showed scorer Carlos Vela was offside.

Pulis said: "It's very disappointing when that happens but I'll speak to Roy and we hope that Roy and West Brom will sort that out with the kid.

"If you can't control yourself and have to smash someone else's property because someone won't shake your hand, I don't see that as an excuse. He has no right to break things like that."

Hodgson said: "I'm pretty sure a team that plays with so much heart, determination and strength as Stoke City will forgive us for breaking a picture. We'll happily pay for it and hold our hands up and say 'we shouldn't have done it'."

Super-sub Carlos Vela produces another late show as he nets Albion's equaliser last night at the Britannia Stadium to seal a precious point

Praise for recall pair

ALBION defender Steven Reid has hailed Scott Carson and Abdoulaye Meite after the duo made impressive returnsat Stoke.

Carson was recalled in goal after being dropped for the last seven matches, while Meite was a shock inclusion at the heart of defence for his first Premier League match since April 2009. But both men performed well as the Baggies claimed a dramatic point through Carlos Vela's late equaliser in a 1-1 draw.

Reid, who was also recalled at right-back, said: "We know what Scott Carson can do. He has played at the highest level and played for England and it wasn't a problem with him coming in.

"But Abou deserves a special mention. He hasn't started a league game all season but he came in and was magnificent.

"After being out so long he just slotted in there really well and hopefully there is a future for him at the club.

"He wasn't part of it but he has kept his head down and kept working and got his chance, and looking at that performance he looks like he might have a big part to play this season.He has played international football and captained his country, he has played in the Premier League for a good few years and his experience will be invaluable. He stepped in and did brilliantly."

Boss Roy Hodgson took the tough decisions to leave out keeper Boaz Myhill and defenders Gonzalo Jara and Gabriel Tamas. He said: "There are four good, senior centre-backs at the club in Tamas, Meite, Ibanez and Olsson.

"All four of them seem to me to be very competent Premier League players and it's not easy for me at the moment to be 100 per cent certain who is the best duo but I've got to say I was very happy with Meite (at Stoke).

"All of the decisions I make are difficult at the moment because I don't know the players that well yet. But Carson's performance was very solid. What he had to do he did very, very well."

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It's Vela to the rescue again

JONAS Olsson left his calling card at the Britannia Stadium.

But Albion didn't need the Swede to re-arrange the decor to prove that their fighting spirit is back with a vengeance.

They needed another late Carlos Vela strike to seal the point that took them back out of the Premier League's drop zone.

But, while Olsson's angry fist left its mark on a picture in the Potters' inner sanctum, the Baggies' on-field performance was anything but 'smash and grab'.

In fact, the late equaliser was simply just reward for a spirited second-half onslaught on the Potters' defences that would have been breached earlier had the visitors not found home keeper Asmir Begovic in belligerent form.

Only the continued excellence of the Bosnian prevented Roy Hodgson's men from claiming a thrilling late winner that would have ended their long Stoke hoodoo and, more importantly, taken them three points clear of the bottom three.

For Albion it was a night on which reputations were enhanced, cemented or even resurrected as they claimed the draw they needed to climb out of the relegation places and push rivals Wolves back below the water line.

And, once more, they left a drawn match with the psychology of winners thanks, for the second time in eight days, to the late intervention of Vela. The young Mexican's reputation was among those enhanced but, on a night for strength and clarity of purpose, it was Hodgson who emerged with the most individual credit.

The new head coach's second match in charge brought the 'real' start of his regime as three huge selection gambles delivered for the first time a starting line-up with his personal stamp.

STOKE CITY	1
ALBION	1

In came Scott Carson for a first appearance since his Fulham howlers and, more remarkably, forgotten man Abdoulaye Meite, while leading scorer Peter Odemwingie was relegated to the substitutes' bench. All three decisions might, had they backfired, have invited derision for the boss just two games into his Hawthorns tenure. But with all three paying off to a lesser or greater extent, not to mention his introduction of Vela from the bench proving to be a masterstroke, Hodgson strengthened his standing with the Baggies faithful.

Whether he can keep them in the Premier League remains to be seen but the events of an unusually mild Potteries evening proved, if the Baggies are to be relegated, they will be so fighting to the end for the new man at the helm.

Having coped admirably with the predictable aerial bombardment, Hodgson's men paid for Graham Dorrans' momentary defensive lapse as Rory Delap headed the Potters ahead just after half-time.

But that simply stirred the Baggies to a greater effort and Vela's eventual strike, with three minutes left on the clock, owed as much to his team-mates' persistence as it did to the generous decision-making of the match officials.

Vela was clearly offside when he nipped onto Steven Reid's lofted pass and sidestepped away from Begovic before finishing.

But even the hosts could not deny their guests were more than worthy of at least a point and, given the shocking decisions that went against them in the closing weeks of Roberto Di Matteo's reign, we won't be hearing the Albion players apologising too loudly for getting their own lucky break.

Olsson was not the only player on the night to show excessive aggression and the fact that Kenwyne Jones did less damage to Carson than the Swede managed to Stoke's wall furniture was more by luck than judgement. The giant striker's rash use of his forearms was a feature of a drab first half with the giant Trinidad and Tobago international clattering into the Baggies keeper at Delap's first two long throw-ins.

Burst

Carson had to make a smart save from a Jermaine Pennant free-kick while the Potters' winger also glanced the crossbar with another dead-ball effort, his near-misses coming either side of shots by Dorrans and Marc-Antoine Fortune that proved easy meat for Begovic.

But it was eight minutes into the second half that the game burst to life as Fortune failed to 'screen' the near-post region while Dorrans and Carson stood still as Delap headed home. From then it was all Albion and only Begovic's reaction save from Dorrans' deflected header kept his side in front.

Albion cranked up the pressure but it appeared it was to no avail until, with the game almost up, Reid's pass was played, Vela's run was made, the flag stayed down and the equaliser arrived. Even then there was chance for Roy's boys to win it as Dorrans' fine pass sent Vela clear but once more Begovic came to the rescue, saving with his legs to deny Albion a victory that would not have flattered them.

TALKING POINT

ARE THE POTTERS HITTING A NEW LOW?

Tony Pulis's side have not been great to watch since their shock promotion to the top division.

But it appeared on Monday night that their rudimentary style has become even uglier in recent times.

Balls were simply launched into the Albion area from all angles as the Potters took the direct route to goal on every occasion.

And the constant physical buffeting of Scott Carson at every set-piece was further evidence of a cynical approach that might be effective for Pulis but will never win his team friends. On Monday's evidence, it also looks unlikely to win many points.

Next three games…

BLUES (A) SATURDAY

Albion will hope for a Carling Cup hangover when they take on Alex McLeish's Wembley winners. Will the Blues have come down since their win over Arsenal?

ARSENAL (H) MAR 19

The Gunners will be out for revenge for their Emirates Stadium defeat earlier in the season – and they have a Premier League title to chase.

LIVERPOOL (H) APR 2

The spotlight will be on the head coach Roy Hodgson as the Albion boss takes on the club he was managing at the start of this season. A real opportunity for points.

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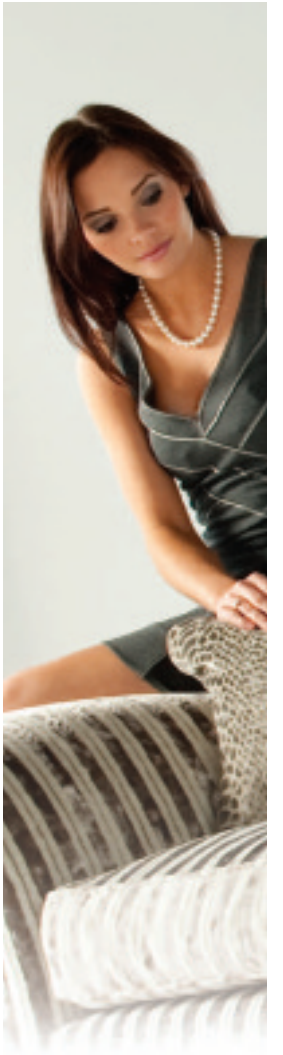
Inspirational living at affordable prices

COUSINS' PHENOMENAL MULTI MILLION POUND STOCK CLEARANCE

Cousins have been closed -

- But they reopen this Friday at 10am in time for their multi million pound clearance event. New departments opening within the store mean you can save up to 70% on a massive range of furniture, carpets, beds and homewares.

For 3 Days, this Friday Saturday & Sunday



Cousins have been closed all week, because staff have been working around the clock handling vast amounts of surplus and incoming stock from suppliers, which is arriving daily to the stores - all price tickets have been reduced to a fraction of the normal price for this one off clearance event.

EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT

Cousins will be undergoing extensive refurbishments in order to accommodate new lifestyle departments, brand new Stressless galleries, extensions to their homeware departments and also many new furniture collections.

To make room for these exciting ranges of accessories and furniture, they must clear existing stock immediately. As a result of this, you can take advantage of huge savings and massive reductions on furniture, carpets, beds and homewares.

NEW DEPARTMENTS

The new lifestyle departments will give added inspiration by showcasing the latest in "retro chic" and "vintage revival."

Managing Director Robert Shotton is keen to clear the existing stock to allow the new departments to flourish." From big brand name sofas to home accessories, they are all on the clearance list as Cousins must empty their warehouses to complete the refurbishment plans."

ALL ITEMS MUST GO

"We need to clear this stock as soon as possible and it really is a case of everything must go," said Robert. "We have recognised that people come to Cousins for the full shopping experience, which includes being able to purchase cushions and accessories to compliment their new sofa or dining table.

The extensions to our homewares department incorporate exciting new products such as beanbags, electrical and flora.

However, the only way to make room for these new additions to the Cousins range is to clear the existing stock we have."

UNBEATABLE PRICES

Following successful buying trips to Cologne, Paris, Milan, Singapore and Shanghai, Cousins are introducing many new furniture collections to their already extensive stock. To accommodate the new season ranges, they have massively reduced the prices of the existing stock, some by up to 70% for a limited time only.

MASSIVE REDUCTIONS

Some of the massive reductions available include a saving of more than £1650 on a Derwent suite plus a leather bedstead for £149. With lamps, pictures, rugs, carpets and their complete range of accessories discounted to a fraction of their normal price, there's a look and a discount available for everyone.

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

There's new stock arriving throughout the three days, with many one off bargains that won't be repeated as well as leading brand name items, for immediate delivery.

"We are delighted to be able to offer our customers even more choice than ever before" said Robert. "These are some of the biggest savings we have ever offered and I am sure that people will be flocking in to snap up a bargain."

MADE TO ORDER

"We've even reduced all made to order items, so you can choose exactly what suits your home, whether it's a beautiful new marble dining table or a new bed.

Our expert team of sales people will be on hand to make sure you get the best furniture at the right

FAMOUS BRAND NAMES

So if you are looking for some of the biggest discounts we've ever offered, on the leading brands in furniture, from G-Plan to Vi-

...and massive choice at the Cousins'

MULTI MILLION PO

THIS FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDA

DOORS OPEN 10AM FRIDAY, be early for the best buys, there are many never to be repeated ONE OFF bargains. If you are seriously thinking of buying any item of furniture, carpets, beds or home accessories at the lowest possible prices then you must VISIT COUSINS THIS FRIDAY, SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.

Leather & fabric Degas pillow-back large sofa and small sofa	£1599	£494	Bonded leather high back swivel chair and footstool	£399	£184
Derwent Camille Grand sofa and snuggler sofa	£2649	£997	Victoria Double Metal Bedstead	£399	£99
Columbine high back 3 seater suite in chenille fabric	£1409	£516	Tempur King Size Mattress	£1949	£899
Parker Knoll Gatsby high back 3 seater sofa and chair	£1999	£872	King Size Leather Canterbury Headboard	£129	£45
Pocket sprung high back Brandon chairs in easycare fabric	£399	£94	Single White Label Mattress	£229	£40
Tetrad Leather & fabric corner group with complimentary accent cushions	£1649	£733	King Size Pocketsprung Saturn Drawer Divan set	£799	£249
Leather Dakota 3 seater and 2 seater sofa in chocolate	£1599	£528	Leather Saville Double bedstead	£699	£149
Wade Corina pillow-back Grand sofa and armchair	£3699	£1545	Virginia King Size Metal Bedstead	£599	£149

THERE ARE ALSO MASSIVE DISCOUN

Ambiera Denby Axminster G Plan Upholstery Dearvent Skovby DURESTA Sealy Harrison Fama PARLANE PERGO

more than just a furniture store

...and massive choice at the Cousins'

multi million pound

STOCK CLEARANCE

Cousins

Birmingham - Warwick Road, Tyseley B11 2EW. Tel: 0121 765 3300
Dudley - Hall Street DY2 8NW. Tel: 01384 451500
Manchester - A57, Regent Rd, Salford M5 4EA. Tel: 0161 875 4070
www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk

Event opening times: Friday 10.00am-8.00pm, Saturday 9.30am-6.00pm Sunday 11.00am-5.00pm